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www.kentnews.co.uk December 2, 2012 **NORTH & WEST KENT EDITION** Issue no 532

Off the rails: Commuters see prices rise by 40% since 2008

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

COMMUTER groups have reacted with fury after cash-strapped rail users were told to brace themselves for the cost of their season tickets rocketing by hundreds of pounds in the new year.

Some coastal towns – including Folkestone, Deal, Dover and Ramsgate – will see prices hiked by more than six per cent, well over the national average.

And in Canterbury the 2013 annual season ticket price will cost £1,000 more than it did just five years ago – a staggering rise of nearly 40 per cent since 2008.

It has prompted an angry response from passenger watchdogs who had hoped Southeastern would proceed with caution when implementing their prices for the coming year, given the economic situation facing many households.

Chief executive of rail watchdog Passenger Focus, Anthony Smith, said: "Passengers will feel this pain. After years of above-inflation fare rises, fresh increases are piling pressure on already high fares. Government and the rail industry must work together to deliver on the welcome promise to get fare rises in line with inflation."

He advised rail users to buy their tickets before January 1 to save on the price rises.

Rail fares are traditionally based on the Retail Price Index (RPI) – which measures inflation – in July, plus three per cent. However, due to the squeeze on spending, the Government capped the rise for the next two years to RPI plus one per cent.

In July, the RPI stood at 3.2 per cent, meaning the average price rise should be 4.2 per cent.

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STAR: Miranda Hart was among the crew who filmed at the Historic Dockyard

TELEVISION

MIDWIFE DROPS IN

A CHRISTMAS special of BBC drama Call the Midwife is set to hit TV screens – with parts of it filmed in Chatham.

Producers of the series, which features comedian Miranda Hart, used the Historic Dockyard to recreate the show 1950s setting.

Film crews returned earlier this year to shoot the second series, which is due to hit screens next year. The festive special is aired on Christmas Day.

Hart, who plays Chummy Browne, returns to our TVs in her hit comedy Miranda this month.

ENTERTAINMENT

Bagpuss and his millions

HE may be nearly 40, but there's no sign of us falling out of love with children's TV favourite Bagpuss.

In a special report inside, we reveal how the creation continues to spawn a multi-million pound industry around him through a string of merchandising deals. **PAGE 3**

CAMPAIGN

Fresh airport plan flies in

YET another plan for a Thames Estuary airport has been unveiled - this time linking into the international rail terminal at Ebbsfleet.

The multi-billion pound proposals for the five runway site, have been put forward by a former advisor to London Mayor Boris Johnson. **PAGE 7**

CRICKET

Good summer ahead for Kent

COUNTY cricket chiefs whet the appetite for the new campaign by unveiling the fixture list for next season this week.

In addition to the annual highlights, there will be a tour match against New Zealand and a host of potentially money-spinning limited-over matches. **PAGE 70**

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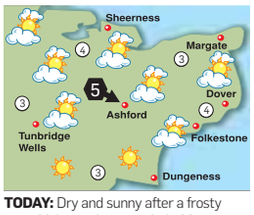

TODAY: Dry and sunny after a frosty start. Light north-west winds. Max temp 2-5C (36-41F). **TONIGHT:** Rain moving in by morning. Min temp -1 to 2C (30-36F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	00.42	6.4	12.49	6.2
Margate	01.34	4.6	14.01	4.5
St Mary's	06.27	5.3	18.45	5.1

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 10C	Min 2C
Tuesday	Max 7C	Min 1C
Wednesday	Max 8C	Min 2C
Thursday	Max 8C	Min 3C
Friday	Max 7C	Min 3C
Saturday	Max 6C	Min 2C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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MEDIA

Academic slams Leveson Report as MPs express concerns over findings

By Dean Kilpatrick
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RECOMMENDATIONS by Lord Leveson are a 'clumsy way' of changing the way the press is regulated, according to a University of Kent professor.

The Leveson Report has outline plans to introduce a tougher form of self-regulation backed by legislation.

And a number of Kent MPs have already expressed concerns about the recommendations. The Prime Minister has also said he doesn't feel statute law was necessary to achieve the aims of the report.

An inquiry was called by David Cameron following the News of the World phone hacking scandal which saw the tabloid close.

Lord Leveson said that self-regulation of the press had to be more rigorous, and said the industry should stop "marking its own homework" after the failings of the Press Complaints Commission.

However, journalism professor at the University of Kent, Tim Luckhurst, said the recommendations were "very harsh" on newspapers - especially those which had never broken any ethical rules.

Prof Luckhurst said: "I welcome very little of what Leveson has done. I think Lord Justice Leveson is seeking to regulate all newspapers for the sins of the small minority.

"If they don't join, then they will be regulated by Ofcom. It offers no choice."

Some Kent MPs have spoken out against the recommendations, and have expressed concerns that the rules will restrict the rights of the press.

Folkestone & Hythe MP Damian Collins said: "I think he is right in his analysis of the media and how regulation of it has failed.

"The only worry is that it's backed by law. I think you can establish a new regulator without the Government being directly involved in it.

"A free press can be good or bad - but that's the purpose of having it free."

Sittingbourne & Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson added: "I can't get my head around that - it's either independent or it's self regulation."

However, North Thanet MP Sir Roger Gale says the recommendations are "sound", and is yet to be convinced by the Prime Minister's view that the recommendations should not be underpinned by Government legislation.

Sir Roger said: "I think it has struck a very good balance between the public and the freedom of the press.

"I think that any form of self-regulation has to be underpinned by legislation - but this doesn't mean it's state control.

"The problem with all of this has been that the Press Complaints Commission has been as useless as a chocolate kettle."

EXPERT: Prof Tim Luckhurst

But one MP hails price rises as 'huge relief to passengers'

Continued from front page

Rail operators are legally entitled to lift or drop their year-on-year rise from certain stations, as long as the average is achieved across their network.

All of which will be of little comfort to commuters in Deal, Ramsgate and Dover who will see price hikes of 6.46 per cent.

West Kent doesn't escape sharp rises either.

In Tonbridge, the cost goes up by 5.2 per cent and West Malling by 5.17 per cent. Gillingham sees an average increase of 4.2 per cent.

Canterbury commuters will fork out an extra £260 to £4,860 – a 5.9 per cent rise year-on-year.

Leader of rail union TSSA, Manual Cortes, also took a swipe at the increases.

He said: "Thousands of commuters across the south east will be paying close to £5,000 a year for their season tickets because of the government's unfair annual inflation-plus fare rises."

The cost of standard day return tickets will be unveiled during December.

However, Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clarke said the rise could have been a lot worse had the Government not done more to regulate the prices.

The financial secretary to the Treasury added: "Last month, I met with the managing director of Southeastern and urged him not to increase rail fares from our local stations by more than the national average – especially at a time when many people are struggling financially.

"I am very pleased he listened to the concerns I raised. This announcement will be a huge relief to rail passengers."

He added that, in the past, local rail passengers have been hit by double-figure rail fare increases.

As a result of a campaign by Kent MPs, Southeastern reduced rail fare increases to around six per cent last year.

However, fellow Tory Gareth Johnson said Kent's commuters were feeling the pinch more than others, and that more could be done to help them.

The Dartford MP said: "I am pleased we have managed to limit it by inflation plus one per cent, but rail fares have hit commuters in the south east more than anyone else and it's something we need to work on."

Southeastern say its price increases do match the average national criteria.

A spokeswoman said: "Our average fare increase is 4.2 per cent – which is line with government policy.

Some will go up a little bit more than this, but many others will be less."

■ **Southeastern prepares for winter – turn to page 5.**

(Figures exclude high-speed service. Source: PASSENGER FOCUS)

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2008 price: **£3,480**
2013 price: **£4,860**
UP 39.6%

GILLINGHAM – LONDON
2008 price: **£2,740**
2013 price: **£3,672**
UP 34%

TONBRIDGE – LONDON
2008 price: **£2,740**
2013 price: **£3,796**
UP 38.5%

2013 TICKET PRICES

Ramsgate-London = £4,940
UP 6.46%
Dover Priory-London = £4,940
UP 6.46%
Deal-London = £4,940
UP 6.46%
Folkestone-London = £4,888
UP 5.98%
Canterbury-London = £4,860
UP 5.9%
Tonbridge-London = £3,796
UP 5.2%
West Malling-London = £3,904
UP 5.17%
Gillingham-London = £3,672
UP 4.2%

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TELEVISION

The middle-aged cat that's the face of a multi-million pound empire

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HE may be "an old, saggy cloth cat, baggy, and a bit loose at the seams" but as Bagpuss hurtles towards his 40th anniversary, he still supports a multi-million pound industry.

And as the range of products featuring the timeless children's classic looks set to fill Christmas stockings up and down the country, yet again, there is no sign of our love affair with the pink cat slowing.

Just one of a number of companies which has a licence to make Bagpuss products says it continues to generate more than £1m each and every year through its branded product range. And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Bagpuss was born in the workshops of creators Peter Firmin and Oliver Postgate in Blean, near Canterbury, and the outside of the shop in which the character lived, filmed in the village.

The duo and their Smallfilms firm created some of children's TV's best loved characters, including The Clangers, Ivor the Engine and Noggin the Nog.

Mr Firmin – Mr Postgate died in Broadstairs in 2008 – has a deal with London firm Coolabi which licenses the Bagpuss name for use on a wide range of products.

Existing deals include photographic greeting cards, adult nightwear and underwear, children's aprons and bags and, of course, cuddly toys and keyrings.

That deal runs until next year, when another big money deal looks set to be agreed.

A deal with the charity Asthma UK also allows for a range of Bagpuss products including pin badges, bookmarks and charm bracelets for sale at a wide range of outlets – they have helped raise £1 million over recent years.

Intelex produces a range of items including boots, toys and neckwraps, which can be heated in a microwave before being used for a feeling of warmth.

Darren Ingram is sales and marketing director at the firm. He confirmed its share of the Bagpuss market is worth around the £1m a year mark.

He said: "Bagpuss is our biggest seller. About three months ago, we signed another three-year deal, and we are delighted to still be able to offer Bagpuss products."

Fran Huxley, licensing consultant at Coolabi said: "The continuing retail success is testament to the enduring popularity of the character."

The original Bagpuss is on display at Canterbury museum – and continues to draw in the crowds. It admits plans to mark the cat's 40th are already well advanced.

A spokesman explained: "We are already planning something special when Bagpuss turns 40, but details are still a big secret."

To mark his 39th birthday in February, there will be a special guest appearance by Mr Firmin and members of the Firmin and Postgate families.

MAGICAL: Bagpuss has made the leap from children's television to become a popular product

CREATOR: Peter Firmin, one half of the duo who woke up Bagpuss

NEWS IN BRIEF

Channel Tunnel blaze

A PROBE got under way on Thursday into a fire in the Channel Tunnel which forced services to be suspended for much of the afternoon.

The incident occurred on the French side of the link with eye-witnesses reporting spotting cars ablaze.

French firefighters swiftly dealt with the incident, and there were no reports of any injuries.

For the latest, see www.kentnews.co.uk.

College funding plea

K COLLEGE principal Bill Fearon, the Univeristy and College Union's Michael Moran and campaigner Lynne Beaumont have joined forces to lobby the county's MPs in a bid to ensure a long-term future for further education in the towns served by the cash-strapped college.

They are seeking assurances from the Government to ensure funding support will be in place while the college balances its books following its multi-million pound losses.

Land Rover warnings

DRIVERS of Land Rover Defenders are being warned to take extra security checks after a spate of thefts.

Police say crooks have stolen at least ten of the old style 4x4 vehicles in recent weeks, in and around the Ashford area, and that extra care should be taken to avoid risks.

Officers believe they could be used in further crimes or be dismantled and the parts sold.

TELEVISION

Nick and the team are ready to change lives

HIT BBC TV show DIY SOS is coming to town next week to help one lucky family revamp their home.

The long-running show, fronted by presenter Nick Knowles, has spent the last week recruiting local builders, electricians and suppliers to help with the project.

The exact location is a closely guarded secret, but it is believed to be in Maidstone.

Originally tranforming individual rooms, the show, now dubbed The Big Build, tackles more ambitious projects for deserving families, who are helped by volunteers from their community.

Crews are expected to be on site from December 4 to 13.

Picture: BBC

PRESENTER: Nick Knowles

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TRANSPORT

Cautious optimism as train firm takes steps to keep us moving in the snow, but will it be enough?

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

AS forecasters predict an icy snap, train operators Southeastern need to prove they have "learnt their lesson" when dealing with wintery weather, according to a Kent MP.

Commuters have traditionally faced major problems with snow and ice, leading to huge delays and cancellations.

However, last year, the service appeared to cope well when put under pressure. It was a far cry from 2010 when services were decimated by snow and commuters complained of being left stranded with no information.

This week, Southeastern and Network Rail, which provides the rail infrastructure, outlined contigency plans for when the extreme weather strikes over the coming months and sought to reassure passengers fearing the worse.

The two firms met with MPs to brief them on how they intend to deal with the inevitable challenges.

The plans include:

- The introduciton of two extra anti-freeze trains, designed to ease problems on the rails.
- Countywide tannoy announcements to improve communication with travellers.
- Analysing weather reports 72 hours in advance, with a contingency timetable ready to roll if ice and snow impact on services.

KEEP MOVING: Southeastern say they have learned from previous years

The strategy has been welcomed by Dartford MP Gareth Johnson, but he warned the proof was in the pudding. He said: "It's fair to say they are aware of their previous failures and are trying to improve their contingency plans from that.

"Southeastern fell down in their service and their communication in 2010 and they have got to learn their lessons from that

"Although there was an improvement in the service last year, the weather was not as severe."

Asked if he thought the plans would be enough to curb any potential winter problems, he said: "we will only know then".

Earlier this year, Southeastern said train services in Kent were more vulnerable to ice and snow because its trains get their power from the rail tracks compared to overhead lines – something the high speed route benefits from.

As in previous years, the rail provider said it would hand out glowsticks and foil blankets to travellers if a train should breakdown and lose lighting, whilst the company has also bought three 4x4 vehicles to assist broken down trains quicker.

Southeastern customer relations manager Alison Nolan said: "Heavy snow and ice represents a significant challenge for running trains on the third rail network.

"Whilst there is always likely to be disruption during severe winter weather, we believe the continual work we have done jointly with Network Rail should enable us to keep more services operating, help us recover more quickly from disruption and support our efforts to improve the quality of information that we provide to passengers."

ON THE ROADS

A RURAL business watchdog has told motorists to prepare for the snow by fitting winter tyres in advance of any adverse weather.

The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) said that despite bad weather hitting the county in the last two years, not enough people prepare their cars until the white stuff starts to fall.

CLA regional director Robin Edwards said: "Winter tyres make sense for drivers in more remote rural areas where winter conditions are likely to be more severe for longer."

BUSINESS

On the right track to develop opportunities

A MASSIVE advertising campaign was unveiled across London's transport network this week as part of a bid to boost economic regeneration across east Kent.

The Grow For It campaign, spearheaded by Kent County Council, was launched on Wednesday night and the fruits of the scheme could be seen by city commuters the following morning.

London buses bearing the project's logo hit the streets, while posters have been put up alongside the escalators at many of the busiest tube stations, including Kings Cross, Victoria, Covent Garden, Canary Wharf and Bank.

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All extol the virtues of living and working in towns such as Canterbury, Folkestone, Dover, Margate and Ramsgate – rather than the grind of the daily commute.

Among the slogans is: "Swap your Oyster travel card for oysters on the beach".

Details of the campaign, run by London-based marketing company Seven Hills, were revealed at the official launch of the regeneration project at the Dover Cruise Terminal. It is seen as the latest piece in the jigsaw to revitalise the area, and will work in tandem with £35m recently awarded to the area by the Regional Growth Fund, which it is hoped will underpin the creation of 5,000 jobs.

KCC leader Paul Carter told the audience of around 400, which included councillors and business figures, that the high speed rail service – which has cut journey times from the area from more than an hour and 40 minutes to just 55 – is an oppotunity "the rest of the world hasn't woken up to".

Cllr Carter then called for further investment, including a third Thames crossing and a new railway station at Manston to accommodate the fast trains.

For more on the launch and all the latest business news, see our new supplement The Business Quarter inside this issue.

ONLINE

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CRIME

Pervert jailed for 630,000 child images

A JUDGE has handed a 59-year-old former tutor from Tunbridge Wells a 10-year jail sentence for possessing indecent images of children.

Jonathon George Clarke, formerly of Coniston Avenue, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court after police found 630,000 indecent images of children downloaded on his computer following a raid in May.

DC Karl Brett said: "Clarke lived a secret life, while tutoring children."

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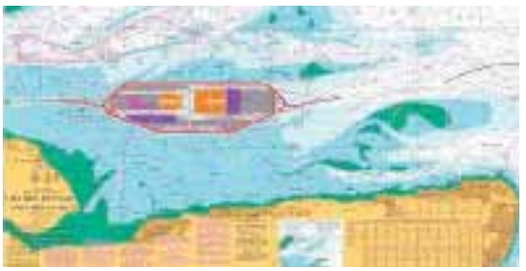
CAMPAIGN

Latest controversial airport design takes proposals out to sea



IN THE SEA: The latest airport design to be put forward would be located off the coast of Sheppey, Whitstable and Herne Bay

NO Estuary Airport

What are your views? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Sign the petition online at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

YET another ambitious proposal for a multi-billion pound airport terminal off the north Kent coast has emerged – this time linking a Thames Estuary airport with the international rail terminal at Ebbsfleet.

Dubbed the London Jubilee International Airport (LJIA), it has been put forward by a former advisor to London Mayor Boris Johnson.

Bridget Rosewell, former economic advisor to the Greater London Authority, says the designs would cost £49bn and be open for business by 2025. The airport would be equipped to handle up to 160m passengers a year.

A key difference to other designs already in the public domain is that it would look to utilise the rail hub at Ebbsfleet to form part of the terminal complex, before a high-speed rail service took passengers to the runways, built off the coast of Sheppey, Whitstable and Herne Bay.

It would boast five runways – with scope to extend to six.

However, the plans have already been slammed by a leading borough and county councillor who described them as "unworkable and unaffordable".

Bryan Sweetland, Conservative member of Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council, said: "The Bridget Rosewell plan is just another in an increasing list of unworkable and unaffordable proposals that would cause untold environmental damage to the Thames Estuary. The proposal is clearly flawed and unworkable."

But Ms Rosewell said she believes the idea will eliminate noise issues for residents and said the plans were not unaffordable.

She said: "People want to fly but do not want planes near them because they are noisy. The idea of putting the runway in the water solves the problem. If we are not connected to the rest of the world the UK economy will die. All infrastructure is expensive but without infrastructure we do not have an economy."

Ms Rosewell added that wildlife would not be affected as there are already wind farms on the site.

She said: "If the turbines can be there then we can put the airport there. It's not where there are lots of birds.

"[We are] trying to get the planes away from the people with a minimum impact on the environment."

However, a spokesman for CPRE Protect Kent said the airport was not needed.

He said: "We are not convinced that there is any need for any more air capacity in the south east. Even if there were, anything in the Thames Estuary would be abysmal."

Kent County Council, Medway Council and surrounding borough and district councils are all opposed to the idea of a Thames Estuary airport.

GRAND DESIGNS

BRIDGET Rosewell's proposals come hot on the heels of a host of other widely publicised plans.

They include Lord Foster's plans for an airport which would sit on Grain and stretch onto reclaimed land in the estuary.

The other main contender is by designers Gensler, who propose a giant futuristic airport with four runways tethered to the seabed.

They all take their inspiration from an idea originally mooted by Boris Johnson and dubbed Boris Island, which would be sited in the estuary.

All proposals will go before an independent commission, headed up by Sir Howard Davies, which will examine options for the UK's aviation industry. It is expected to report back by the end of next year.

Other options to be discussed include expansion at Gatwick – strongly opposed by people living in west Kent who already suffer noise from planes flying over – and a third runway at Heathrow.

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HEALTH

GPs to offer superfast testing service at HIV hot spots in bid to halt rise in infection

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A 60-second test for HIV is being piloted in Bromley after a huge surge in those infected.

Health officials believe cases have risen 300 per cent in the past five years to over 500.

Now a new test that can be done at a doctor's surgery is being piloted in the Penge and north Beckenham areas, said to be HIV hotspots.

HIV experts say because the rise in numbers has been so dramatic, they fear one in four carriers may be completely unaware they are infected.

They said this means they are missing out on life-saving treatment and can consequently unknowingly infect others.

If HIV is detected early it can be treated, allowing those with HIV to live a normal life span. Late diagnosis is the biggest factor associated with HIV-related death in the UK.

WHAT IS HIV?

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) attacks the body's immune system.

In late-stage HIV infection, also known as AIDS, the weakened immune system means the body is more vulnerable to life-threatening conditions such as pneumonia and cancer.

The virus is passed on through exchanging bodily fluids, most commonly through unprotected sex, sharing needles to inject drugs and birth or breastfeeding, when an infected mother can pass the virus to her baby.

The most common HIV symptoms are similar to flu and include fever, sore throat, body rash, tiredness, joint and muscle pain along with swollen glands.

Of the 6,630 new cases of HIV in 2009 in the UK, more than half (54 per cent) got infected through heterosexual sex, and 42 per cent through sex between men.

In 2010, around 91,500 people were living with HIV in the UK, a figure made up from 69,424 who were diagnosed with HIV and an estimate of just over 22,000 who were undiagnosed.

Anyone in the Bromley area concerned can contact the HIV Advice Hotline on 01689 866647 for further information about HIV and treatments.

And that's the reason for launching the confidential and instant finger prick test for HIV in selected GP practices.

A spokesman for NHS Bromley said: "It involves no pain, no needles and no hassle. Our Rapid HIV Test is a simple two-step process, giving accurate results in 60 seconds.

"We give one finger a very slight prick that may not even be noticed. A smear of blood is taken and in 60 seconds or less, there is a result. They can either leave right away, or stay and get any support needed."

The test is available to new patients aged 15 to 59 at the time of registration; the most at-risk sectors of society.

Patients with HIV-related symptoms can take the test along with those with identified risks and any individual who may be concerned about their health.

Anyone worried can also ask their GP to refer them to the GUM (Genito-Urinary Medicine) clinic or local hospital for a test but this can take longer.

The spokesman added: "Partly, HIV rates are increasing because people get diagnosed too late and have already transmitted the infection.

"Using condoms is still the best protection where you do not know your partner's HIV status. Intravenous drug use is responsible for a very small proportion of new HIV infections; most are caused by unprotected heterosexual sex and the majority of the remainder by sex between men.

"Our message to the public is to be sure of their HIV status and get tested, especially if they are in a high risk group."

To mark World AIDS Day on December 1, health professionals in Bromley took to the streets this weekend to highlight HIV awareness and explain its confidential services.

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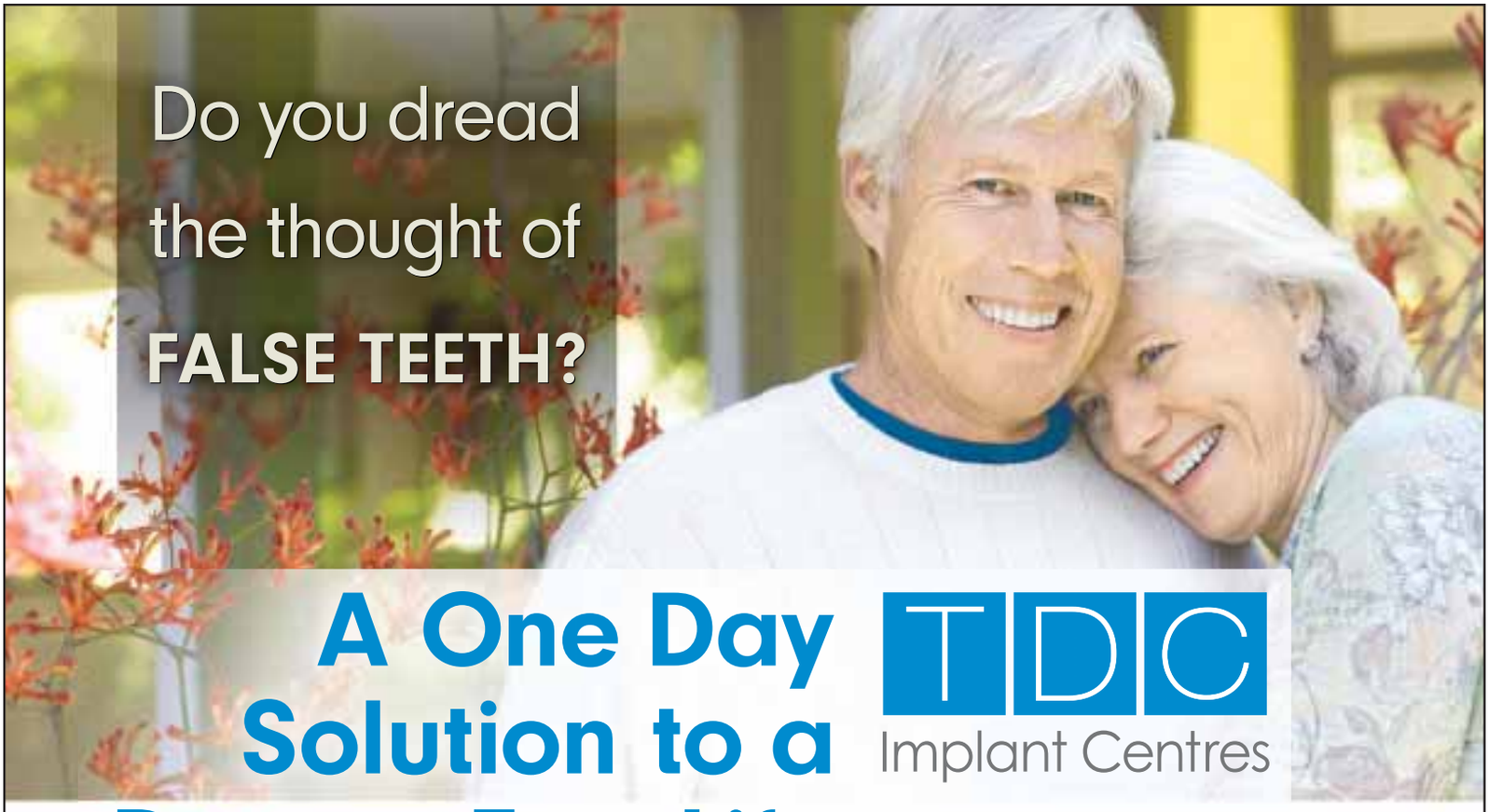

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FOSTERING

Ukip foster parent row: KCC insist political views not a factor here

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT County Council has categorically stated it would never remove foster children from the homes of Ukip supporters following uproar over a decision taken in Rotherham.

County Hall chiefs insisted political persuasion is not a factor in considering foster parents. Medway Council refused to comment.

Kent underlined the stance after it emerged officials at Labour-controlled Rotherham Council had recently taken three ethnic minority youngsters from the home of a couple that had been looking after them.

The reason, it is claimed, is because the couple back the UK Independence Party, which campaigns against an 'open door policy' on immigration, but has no racist agenda.

The council leader at Rotherham, Roger Stone, claimed it was a "very complex case". It has admitted it was a wrong decision, and a council statement said: "Membership of Ukip should not bar someone from fostering."

ANGRY: Nigel Farage was left fuming over the row in Rotherham

But the action has brought about wide condemnation. Education secretary Michael Gove has ordered a full inquiry.

The foster parents, in their 50s, are now demanding to know if they will be allowed to continue looking after children, and also want the council to clear their name. They can't be identified in order to protect the vulnerable children who have been in their care.

We asked both KCC and Medway Council for their policies on fostering criteria and specifically if political persuasion would be considered during selection.

Mairead MacNeil, director of specialist children's services at Kent County Council said: "Foster carers are assessed only on their ability to meet a variety of children's needs or an individual child's specific needs."

But a spokesman for Medway said: "This is not the sort of thing we would talk about."

Ukip leader Nigel Farage, who lives in Westerham, said: "I was very upset and very angry at hearing about this case.

"This couple has been fostering for many years and are very decent people. It must have been an awful shock to them and to the children.

"Politically, I am not surprised at all. This is typical of the sort of bigotry we get from the Labour Party and Labour-controlled councils.

"I want the couple pardoned, I want the children returned, and yes, heads should roll."

MP'S HUSBAND STEPS DOWN

MAIDSTONE MP Helen Grant has "lost the trust" of the electorate, according to her constituency assistant, after her husband resigned from her office this week.

Simon Grant stepped down after differences between his contract and other members of staff left the equalities minister in an "embarrassing position".

It was the latest blow for the Conservative MP, who has faced criticism for plans to sell her constituency office and an expenses claims for a London home – despite living in Reigate, just 19 miles from Westminster.

Mr Grant's contract, it emerged this week, entitled him to 26 weeks' sick pay – while other staff were told they could have just two.

It follows a row with constituency assistant Tony Williams who claimed Mrs Grant had altered his contract to reduce sick pay, uncovered when he needed treatment for a heart problem.

In a statement, Mr Grant said he had resigned after telling his wife of the discrepancy nearly two months after it was identified by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA).

Simon Grant said: "Failing to tell my wife...was an error of judgement which has put her in an embarrassing position through no fault of her own.

"I have gained nothing from the discrepancy itself which was a genuine oversight."

Mr Williams said this week: "She's lost the trust of the electorate."

A statement from Mrs Grant's office said: "His (Mr Grant's) contract was created from the IPSA's permanent staff template, not the template used for all of her other staff.

"The standard sick pay clause in Mr Grant's permanent contract was not amended - this was the case through oversight on his part rather than design."

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NATURE

TV star's fear for our 'wonderful forests' as ash trees face threat

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

SURVIVAL expert Ray Mears has voiced his concerns about the future of Kent's forests as ash dieback threatens to wipe out up to 90 per cent of ash trees in the county.

Television presenter Mr Mears, who has a house on the Kent and East Sussex border near Tunbridge Wells, said he knew the county's countryside very well after growing up in the North Downs.

And he spoke of his worries that the fungal disease could seriously devastate our landscape.

There are approximately 5.5 million ash trees in Kent, with some experts predicting the Chalara fraxinea disease could affect up to 90 per cent of them over the next ten years.

So far, there have been 11 confirmed cases of the deadly fungus in the county – with most of the affected trees between Dover and Ashford.

Surival expert Mr Mears said more needed to be done to protect the county's forests.

SURVIVAL SKILLS: Ray Mears took pupils from Wrotham School on an adventure challenge recently as a reward for winning a climate change competition

Speaking to this newspaper after working with students from the county, the Survival star said: "We are very lucky here because we have such wonderful forests, so, yes, I'm very worried because ash trees are my favourite kinds of trees. I'm very concerned."

The 48-year-old also said people took the countryside for granted and not enough concern had been shown before ash dieback was discovered in Britain.

Mr Mears added: "It's interesting that people have taken this long to realise how wonderful our forests are.

"Not so long ago, all the doors and frames were made of oak before they became aluminium."

Pupils from Wrotham School in Sevenoaks won the opportunity to take part in an adventure challenge with the expert after they submitted a project as part of the npower Climate Cops SOS competition, which would see them create an outdoor assault course.

After impressing Mr Mears and a judging panel, the students got to meet the television presenter in the Lake District for a number of outdoor tasks.

He said: "I've spent the last two days teaching them how to make fire. I have taught them several different methods to use and have used that as a vehicle to teach other things like teamwork and how they look at themselves.

"Together we are enjoying the environment and fresh air and I am really impressed by these 'green-agers' – there are definitely some future wildlife warriors amongst them."

School staff member David Beach added: "The students worked hard to come up with original and creative activities for their fellow students, and had lots of fun doing it too."

ASH DIEBACK

CHALARA dieback of ash is a serious disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called Chalara fraxinea (C fraxinea).

It causes leaf loss and dieback in affected trees, and usually leads to tree death.

It is believed the disease was first detected in Poland in 1992 and has spread across Europe, reaching the UK earlier this year.

Cases in Kent were first confirmed in November.

According to the Forestry Commission, it is being treated as a quarantine pest under national emergency measures, and it is important that suspected cases of the disease are reported.

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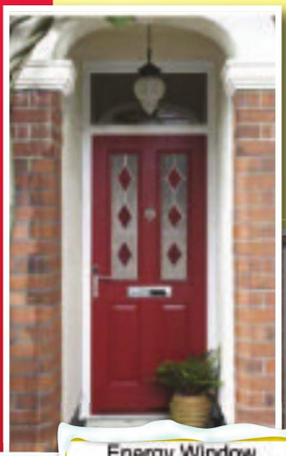

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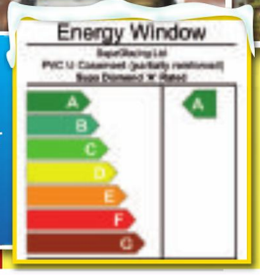

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LITERATURE

Brave RAF pilot's diary offers a unique insight into battle for the skies

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE diary of a young, heroic, Battle of Britain pilot, which recounts a frantic dogfight in the skies over Maidstone, has just been published.

It describes the wartime career of George Barclay who survived being shot down three times and escaped from the Nazis in occupied France, but was sadly killed in action in North Africa.

Now, 70 years after his death, Battle of Britain Pilot: The Self-Portrait of an RAF Fighter Pilot and Escaper is thought to be the only record of its kind. It tells how the heroic Norfolk-born squadron leader took to the skies in the Hurricanes and Spitfires, and who describes being shot down for the first time as a "most novel experience".

The day-to-day log of the conflict, written against Ministry of Defence security rules, was undiscovered for years before being found by Barclay's family in a small parcel, along with his Distinguished Flying Cross.

It has been published by Haynes with the help of the pilot's younger brother Richard, 86, and historians who pieced together the unique story.

Barclay was just 20 when he was called up to fight against the Nazis in 1939, and trained as a fighter pilot. His diary was written on two exercise books filled with scraps of writing paper, with each page detailing his experiences and emotions as he fought for his country.

It finishes before the Allies secured victory as he was killed in action at the age of 22 as he commanded 238 Hurricane Squadron at El Alamein.

His first entry begins: "Yesterday evening we were told we were to move to North Weald, Essex, today, to relieve the war-weary and much shot up 56 Squadron."

Days later he was shot down, but managed to crash-land his aircraft.

Later the diary describes 12 British planes patrolling the skies over Maidstone – of which only seven returned.

He wrote: "We went off just before tea by ourselves and climbing up to 23,000ft over Maidstone... I was leading yellow section and looking after the squadron's tail.

"The odds today have been unbelievable (and we are all really very shaken!). There are bombs and things falling around tonight and a terrific gun barrage. Has a blitz begun?"

Barclay was shot down for the second time on November 29 at 22,000ft, but chose not to open his parachute until he reached 2,000ft.

He recorded the incident: "I was shot down today – a most novel experience. As I fell out and down on my back one of my boots fell off, apparently to me falling upwards as I left it behind."

On September 20, 1941, the fighter pilot was downed for a third time after being 'jumped' by five Me 109 fighters as he flew over France in a Spitfire. He ended up in a French field where he turned his uniform inside out to hide the insignia, and pretended to be a farm worker as Nazis came looking for him.

Historian Humphrey Wynn, who edited the book, said: "As a document, it is as important as a personal account of any other great battle such as the diary of an Elizabethan seaman in the Armada or one of Nelson's officers at Trafalgar."

■ **Battle of Britain Pilot: The Self-Portrait of an RAF Fighter Pilot and Escaper, published by Haynes, is available from bookshops priced £25.**

Pictures: HAYNES PUBLISHING

LEADING MAN: George Barclay was shot down three times before he was killed in battle, aged 22

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MUSIC

It's only rock 'n' roll (but 50 years on we still like it)

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IT was 52 years ago that Mick Jagger and Keith Richards bumped into each other at Dartford train station and rekindled a friendship which would result in the creation of one of the world's best loved rock bands.

And to mark the 50-year anniversary of the group's first live show at London's Marquee Club in 1962, the band hit the stage of the O2 Arena in Greenwich for two sell-out performances.

Their first UK show for five years took place last Sunday, with special guests during the two-and-a-half-hour performance including former band members Bill Wyman and Mick Taylor, as well as Mary J Blige. The second was on Thursday night.

Tickets for the two shows had attracted criticism, with prices starting at more than £100 and soaring into the thousands for those wanting hospitality packages.

During the first show, Mr Jagger, 69, quipped: "How is everyone in the cheap-seats? Oh, there aren't any."

In addition to the two London shows, the band are also performing two nights in New York.

Picture: TOM WHITBY

TOGETHER: The Rolling Stones at the premiere of Crossfire Hurricane during the BFI London Film Festival in October. Right, they played two gigs at The O2 Arena last week

THE STONES IN NUMBERS

£106	**price of the cheapest ticket (inc booking fee) for O2 shows**
£3,250	price offered per ticket for front row seats via secondary ticketing site Seatwave.com this week
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March 17 **Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells**
March 31 **West Cliff Hall, Ramsgate**
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March 4 **Odeon Theatre, Rochester** (two shows)

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CHRISTMAS

Events switch on our enthusiasm for the season as towns are lit up

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IT'S beginning to look a lot like Christmas, after towns across the county started the countdown to the big day by unveiling their festive lights and attractions.

Thousands of people headed into Maidstone to watch the lights switch-on, while in Tonbridge there were huge crowds for its Christmas Festival, which ended in a dramatic firework display.

Meanwhile, in Tunbridge Wells, the ice rink in Calverly Grounds opened for the second year, and saw hundreds take to the ice, while traders set up shop in chalets pitched around the rink's edge.

Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, Dave Davis, was among the crowd who watched the firework display after listening to a number of local bands performing.

He said: "It was fantastic to see so many people come out to celebrate Tonbridge's Christmas Festival. The lights looked spectacular this year and the reflection on the river made it all the more magical."

Malcolm Greer, cabinet member for economic and commercial development at Maidstone Borough Council, said: "There was a real buzz in the town as the lights went on and it was great to see so many people with smiley faces and Christmas cheer."

And in Tunbridge Wells there was delight despite the miserable weather. Last year unseasonably warm weather saw the ice rink's first week dogged by the ice melting and strong winds preventing it from refreezing.

There were displays from the junior team of Gillingham ice hockey side the Invicta Dynamos and also a choir as visitors strapped on their skates.

Jane March, portfolio holder for tourism, leisure and economic development said: "Nearly 300 people attended the opening of the ice rink. Despite the wet weather, figures over the weekend were higher than last year, with a large number of skaters enjoying the attraction."

FESTIVE: From left, Tonbridge was illuminated by fireworks; Tunbridge Wells hosted an ice hockey display; and Maidstone is also now lit up

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ENVIRONMENT

The battle for

Conservation groups go head-to-head

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL groups have been left divided over plans which could see an ancient woodland make way for the extension of a ragstone quarry.

A public inquiry into the heavily disputed plans to lengthen the existing site into Oaken Wood in Maidstone began this week after more than 1,000 objections to the proposals were submitted to Kent County Council.

However, the plans to remove trees from the woodlands have divided environmental groups and the public alike.

Both the Woodland Trust and Kent Wildlife Trust are to speak against the plans at the inquiry, but the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Protect Kent, says campaigners should look at the bigger picture.

Ragstone produced at the Kentish quarry has been used for buildings such as Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London, and Protect Kent says the end products contribute to the environment as much as the woodlands.

However, the Woodland Trust and Kent Wildlife Trust say the proposed development would destroy ancient woodland and a number of species which reside in the area. Some 32 acres of Oaken Wood could get the chop, which consists mostly of sweet chestnut coppice.

The plans to extend the existing ragstone quarry were submitted by the Gallagher Group back in 2010, and the application was approved by KCC in 2011, despite a large number of objections.

However, a public inquiry was called after the Woodland Trust and Kent Wildlife Trust requested the matter be addressed by the Secretary of State.

The company behind the proposals insists it will return the land to its current state once the production of ragstone has ceased.

Gallagher Group chief executive Nick Yandle said: "This application is good for Kent, good for local jobs and, with time, will see the doubling of the woodland footprint, from 33 hectares to 66 hectares, with indigenous species such as oak.

"The future well-being of some of the county's best-loved ancient buildings depends on this application being approved as many were constructed with, and are, preserved using Kentish ragstone."

The company also said the extension was necessary to meet demand for the material, although this is disputed by opponents.

The inquiry is ongoing.

■ **What do you think of the plans? Write to us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.**

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Oaken Wood

over controversial quarry plans

CHOICES: The inquiry will decide whether to allow planning permission to extend the current Hermitage Quarry onto land covered by the highly valued Oaken Wood

FOR

Jamie Weir

Public relations manager of Protect Kent

CPRE Protect Kent wants the best for all of Kent, and indeed rural communities across England.

We regularly have to think about development from a strategic viewpoint, and we often have to deal with contentious proposals. This is one such proposal.

Having given this very careful consideration, we decided not to object to the extension of Hermitage Quarry, provided that conditions are imposed to ensure quarrying is carried out as sustainably as possible, and assurances are given regarding its reinstatement to woodland once the quarry is no longer operational.

Many of our country's most important heritage buildings, such as Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London, were constructed using Kentish ragstone, and their maintenance will require a reliable supply of replacement stone.

This is obviously both a sensitive and controversial application, but provided the appropriate conditions are met CPRE Protect Kent does not object to this proposal.

AGAINST

Sue Young

Head of conservation, policy and evidence at Kent Wildlife Trust

Once ancient woodland has been destroyed, it's gone forever.

The natural value of the site lies not just in trees, but in the interdependent woodland animals, plants, fungi and soils that have developed together over hundreds of years, and this complexity cannot be replicated.

Oaken Wood supports many species of conservation importance; we will do our best to ensure that Kent does not lose any more of its ancient woodland biodiversity.

Nikki Williams

Head of campaigning at the Woodland Trust

Oaken Wood is the biggest test for the future of ancient woodland since the National Planning Policy Framework came into play earlier this year.

To lose it would set a dangerous precedent. We are confident that the need for and benefits of the mineral extraction at Oaken Wood do not outweigh the loss of this irreplaceable ancient woodland and look forward to defending this precious wildlife habitat for the benefit of generations to come.

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EVENT

Woggle-tastic! Scouts set to gather from around the world for jamboree party

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE than 3,000 scouts and guides from around the world will be dib-dib-dibing next year for the Kent International Jamboree.

Staged at the Kent County Show Ground in Detling, representatives from 30 nations have confirmed their attendance, with some travelling from as far as Japan, Sri Lanka, Lagos and Denmark.

It will be the fifth event of its kind, with the event taking place every four years, for what is billed as a week of fun, adventure and international friendship running from July 27 to August 3.

Jamboree director Andy Trill said: "We're excited to be welcoming thousands of scouts and guides next summer, something that wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. We will spend thousands of hours organising this event

to ensure it's a success.

"Our scouts and guides will be able to meet thousands of other young people from different cultures and countries as well as take on seven different activity zones together."

And another organiser, Chris Frankland, added: "Jamborees are a fantastic opportunity for young people to meet others from literally all around the world.

"We're really looking forward to next year and the return of some of our favourite activities.

"Many of the international contingents will be staying in Kent after the week-long jamboree, taking in some of the local scouts' hospitality before departing home.

"Jamborees are an international celebration for young people involved in scouting and guiding. The spirit of a jamboree involves making friends while sharing new adventures. There will be an active and energetic programme that will allow young people to grow in confidence.

"Our philosophy has always been about offering a jamboree experience born from our scouting and guiding traditions and providing a camp with both an intimate feel and the chance to have fun."

Mr Frankland added: "Just like the Olympics and World Cup, it takes place every four years and we have high hopes that in 2013 it will be our best event yet. Scouts and guides will have the opportunity to try more than 100 different activities in the programme zones, including climbing, abseiling and water events."

FRIENDS: Scouts and guides from all over the world are set to attend the jamboree

AN INSPIRATIONAL AMBASSADOR

WORLD traveller Phil Packer MBE has been unvieled as the Scout Association's newest ambassador.

The inspirational figure suffered a severe spinal injury while on active durty as a serviceman in Iraq and was told he would never walk again. But he overcome his problems to inspire others with personal challenges including parachuting, rowing, mountain climbing and several marathons.

He even rowed across the Channel less than a year after sustaining the injuries.

Mr Packer has spent this year walking the whole of the UK, with scouts joining him at many points in his journey, as part of his own charity challenge. It included a visit to Kent.

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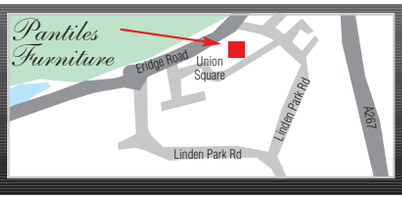

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

BACK IN TIME: Authors Paul Wells and Jeff Howes with the book which launched last weekend

Exploring rich history of gateway to the UK

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR centuries, Dover has been Britain's frontline.

Its majestic white cliffs rising from the murky waters of the English Channel have inspired generation after generation; a potent symbol of the beginning, or end, of the British Isles.

On a clear day, you can stand and peer out to sea and quite clearly make out the French coast, a little over 20 miles away.

As a result of its geography, it is traditionally accepted as the frontline whether it be for invading forces or, as is more often the case in the modern era, for the thousands of tourists who use it as the entry point into the UK.

It is not hard to imagine, as a result, the rich history in which the town is steeped.

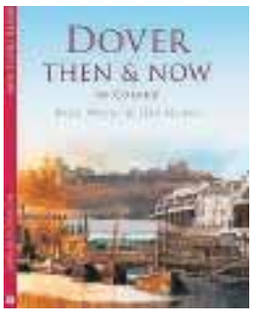
Now a pair of local authors and historians have completed their second book on the history of the port.

Paul Wells and Jeff Howe's Dover Then and Now is their second title published by History Press, based on the events that have affected the town.

Their first effort, Dover Past and Present, was released three years ago.

The new book features a set of unique black and white photographs of a Dover long forgotten, in addition to modern day photos showing how the area has changed over the last century.

With full insight into the area provided, they are hoping the hardback book provides a vital addition to any local historian's library.



BOOK: Focuses on town's past

Mr Howe is a founding member of the Western Heights Preservation Society and Mr Wells is responsible for organising the open days at the Drop Redoubt Fort twice a year.

He is also currently studying as a history undergraduate at the University of Sussex, and Mr Wells is treasurer of the preservation society.

Local government officer Mr Wells said: "Between us, we have over 40 years of interest in military Dover, and the draw of the town has extended our interest even further.

"With over 3,000 years of history extending from the Bronze Age boat, through the Roman era, Napoleonic and Victorian defences and the development of the harbour there's always something new to discover.

"For over 10 years we have led illustrated guided walks for the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership and for English Heritage round the town and surrounding area.

"Our books are an opportunity for us to share our collections and vast amount of local knowledge and enthusiasm with the locals and beyond."

Mr Wells added: "We wrote our first book in 2009 following the success of a friend's similar book on Ramsgate. We had led guided walks in and around Dover for over 10 years and there is nothing like standing in the exact location of a photo taken 100 years ago and seeing the difference today, and it seemed a natural progression to convert this into a book.

"There was a gap in the market for this style of book and we took the opportunity to be able to share some of our collection with the public rather than it gathering dust on our bookshelves.

"Following the sell-out of the first volume, the publishers, History Press, approached us earlier this year proposing a revamp ready for thier new colour hardback range, however rather than re-release the same images we took the opportunity to do a totally new book with new photographs."

The pair are now working on new projects, including more books.

Dover Then and Now went on sale last Saturday, with a special launch event at Dover Museum's education room.

The book is on sale for £12.99.

OPINION

Why your high street needs you

Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, highlights why independent traders rely on your spend this Yuletide

FIRST, let's get one thing out of the way – what, precisely, is a trader?

"A person who engages in trade" is not particularly helpful. We seem to use the word trade with a variety of meanings: international trade, trade and industry, a person's trade...

Most dictionaries, however, seem to be in agreement about the primary meaning of trade; the buying and selling of goods or services.

From that perspective, the importance of Christmas to traders becomes immediately obvious. Whatever else Christmas is, it is certainly a beanfeast of buying and selling.

The simple fact is that the Christmas period represents, without doubt, the most important time of the year for retail businesses, and in many cases it can be not only the icing on the cake, but that which keeps the business viable.

Outside retail, if I can briefly digress, the Christmas period can be a bit of a double-edged sword. It can be intrusive and disruptive to the pattern of business, and cause severe administrative problems.

But let's face it, we are all consumers of one kind or another and as individuals we contribute to the Christmas retail situation, so we are all in this together. Besides, outside retail is a different story.

This year is especially crucial. The economic situation is giving rise to severe problems in the retail world, as evinced by perpetually low trading statistics and the failure not only of independent high street traders, but of national chains that have been household names for many years.

People simply do not have money to spend; even those that may have some kind of buffer against austerity are reluctant to use it, fearing things might get even worse.

Independent traders especially are finding times hard.

Large corporations have reserves that can be brought into play to cushion thin times; they buy in huge amounts, they can source their supplies from a vast market, and they have immense power to pressure beneficial terms.

The independent trader has no such advantages.

Even so, the supermarkets are lobbying for longer Sunday opening hours over the Christmas period to maximise their potential sales. If the supermarkets feel the need for that, imagine how the independent traders must be feeling.

Is there anything that we can do about it all?

The obvious answer is to spend lots and lots over the Christmas period.

Fine in an ideal world, but we are not in one at present. So it has to be a matter of spending what we do in a judicious way

Spend as much as you can wisely... including at local shops which need your support

that spreads the largesse as far as possible.

We all want to retain as much choice as possible, in whatever we do. The deeper into austerity we go, the more threat there is to local independent traders who offer a different shopping experience to that of the corporations and multi-nationals.

Don't get me wrong, I think the supermarkets and online outlets have an important part to play in the overall scheme of things. But local independents often buy from local independent sources, and both are paramount to the culture and environment of the communities in which we live.

Spend as much as we can, spend it wisely, and spend it at a variety of outlets, including our local shops which need our support. That way, we are more likely to retain the high streets and communities which we hold so dear.

KOS COMMENT

The generational slip of protecting against HIV

FOR a certain generation, the threat of HIV and AIDS was one which curtailed behaviour and sent a shiver down the spine.

It was a virus which threatened to kill so many, and straight or gay, sex suddenly became an activity which could, quite literally, be the death of you.

But as the publicity died down, it would appear cases started to rise. The situation in Bromley we report on this week is one which should remind us all of the very real dangers of assuming if we don't think about it, it can't hurt us.

It is World AIDS Day this weekend. We should use it to teach the younger generation it's always better to be safe than sorry.

They deserve better

THERE is always a delicious irony that the announcement of the annual increase in rail fares comes just a few weeks before we're blanketed in snow and the whole network grinds to a halt.

Now, more than ever, commuters deserve the very best service possible, after all, they certainly pay enough.

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Deal Pier by Kevin Mudge-Wood, from Dover

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Did we really have faith?

YOUR KoS front page headline last week asked 'Are we losing faith?'. In fact, the majority have never really had faith.

In the past, the non-believing majority feared to speak out because of the power of the Church. We now live in a freer society where people can openly express their views.

Regrettably, due to the control the Church has over schools, some people continue to pretend to be church-goers in order to get their children into school.

David Burgess, Hawkhurst

Church should be answerable

I FOUND last week's story, 'Are we losing faith?' excellent, excepting that it promulgated the often held belief that those bereaved arranging a funeral have just two choices: one of their faith, however tenuous that may be; or a humanist ceremony, which forbids mention of a deity.

This is simply not the case, but it's a wonder to me, given the sometimes entrenched views of many funeral directors – essentially the 'gatekeepers' of funeral services – that you have managed to unearth that there is a choice at all.

There is a third way; civil funeral ceremonies.

Many of the families I see have turned their faces away not necessarily from God, but from established churches.

This is hardly surprising given the horror stories I have heard over the 170 services I have now given.

Some let me know the member of clergy leading a previous ceremony would not allow contributions from family or friends; called their deceased family member by the wrong name; and dealt with what brief eulogy there was to be via a telephone call.

How utterly disgraceful and unspeakably wretched for the poor families involved.

Established churches have little defence when they allow clergy to continue offering such a shoddy service for a not insubstantial sum.

From January 2013, it will cost a family around £180 to have a Church of England minister conduct a ceremony.

This is an increase of around £50 on 2012 fees.

Given that we are in a period of almost uncharted austerity, can the General Synod really believe it is in touch with the common man?

Stories such as yours can only encourage people into talking more about death; the last taboo.

Susannah Clayton, Civil funeral celebrant

Airport facts – not this fiction

I HAVE yet to make my mind up whether I am in favour of an airport hub in the Thames Estuary area or not.

The reality is there has yet to be sufficient detailed analysis of the pros and cons for me to do so.

That, however, has not stopped local politicians such as Rehman Chishti (Opinion, November 25) coming out strongly against the proposal.

What is particularly worrying, particularly for a politician who has ambitions of higher office, is the lack of even a basic grasp of local economics.

Mr Chishti argues that as the number of jobs created by a new airport exceeds current unemployment in Kent and Medway this would result in an influx of new arrivals.

He overlooks the fact that a significant proportion of Kent and Medway's working population currently commutes out of the county as insufficient jobs exist locally.

Many of these commuters would welcome the opportunity to work locally and by doing so would reduce congestion on transport routes into London.

Those same transport routes could attract workers into Kent, taking advantage of the lower costs and congestion enjoyed when reverse commuting, without any need to move to Kent.

Clearly some new housing would be required, but there is more than enough capacity in sites already allocated across Kent, Medway, south Essex and east London. They won't all want to live in Medway.

Mr Chishti also, rather oddly, argues against more infrastructure, schools and hospitals, things that his administration at Medway Council argued strongly for when faced with the Thames Gateway growth plans along with a persistent 'jobs before housing' mantra.

Of course there are many environmental, funding and other challenges to building an airport in the Thames Estuary and ultimately these might well outweigh any economic benefits, but at least let us have a proper debate.

The final decision will not be made by local politicians, but it is for precisely that reason that our local councils should jointly be assessing the true economic impact.

This will enable them firstly to present an evidence-based argument against, if that is the conclusion, and secondly to ensure the region is best prepared to maximise the benefits should it ultimately happen.

The current, ill informed, knee-jerk, head-in-the-sand reaction by most local politicians serves neither those who are for, against or undecided.

Mark Bradbury
Former head of economic development at Ashford Borough Council, head of Chatham Development at Medway Renaissance and deputy director of development at London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

This 'barbaric' trade must end

I AM writing in case some of your readers are not aware that live exports of sheep and calves continue to be exported from Ramsgate.

It is often the case the calves are only 14-days-old therefore they are not even weaned.

This cheap, vile trade takes place every week from the Port of Ramsgate, with most weeks there being two sailings.

This may be deemed a legal trade, but it is not being conducted in a lawful manner.

While Defra's animal health inspectors only carry out the minimum amount of checks, the RSPCA inspectors were the ones who carried out thorough checks and found animal welfare violations, but since the reopening of the live exports on October 16, the RSPCA are no longer allowed to carry out inspections, they are only permitted to make notes and take photographs.

Come and see the reality of live animal exports, take a look at Compassion In World Farming, the RSPCA and Kent Action Against Live Exports websites, find out the facts then make your decision. There is no place for this barbaric 'trade' in the 21st century.

Lynda Hammond, Broadstairs

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Training, courses and careers

KYCC launches scheme to boost youth job hopes

THE Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) has launched what it is calling a "revolutionary" scheme to combat falling youth employment by creating more and better job opportunities for young people in Kent.

The KYCC, part of Kent County Council, provides a platform for young people to have a voice on issues impacting on the county and those which have an impact on the younger generation.

It has elected representatives to voice the opinion of those between the ages of 11-18.

Previous successes include the introduction of the Kent Freedom Pass, which allows unlimited travel around Kent for a year at the cost of £100.

Now it is tackling the issue of employment opportunities.

After speaking with hundreds of young people in Kent, the KYCC has written a 'Youth Employment Code' which has brought in, for the first time, an under-16 minimum wage, as well as changes to working hours, health and safety, apprenticeships, redundancies and vacancies.

Leader of the scheme, and KYCC member for Canterbury, Nabhan Malik, aged 15, said: "This scheme is a giant step forward for young people. For the first time, young people and the employers themselves are on the same page and moving forward, together.

"The possibilities are endless."

The event was launched last Friday at a special event held at Kent County Council's headquarters at County Hall in Maidstone.

Hopes high as bid for technical college goes back to the DofE

AFTER months of preparation, an official bid has been submitted to the Government in the hope of securing a university technical college in Medway.

It is the second bid submitted in the space of a year. An initial application received positive feedback but was unsuccessful.

This time hopes are the proposal for the college, billed as a new concept in secondary education, will receive a warmer reception from the Department of Education.

If successful, Medway's UTC will specialise in engineering and construction, traditionally at the heart of Medway's economy, and would be sponsored by the University of Greenwich, MidKent College, Medway Council and local employers.

Offering 14–19-year-olds a mixture of practical and academic education and training, university technical colleges are supported by a university, a further education college and local employers who will create projects and training for the students to participate in.

Professor Alan Reed, chair of the Medway UTC Partnership, said: "A successful outcome would bring a third option to secondary education, as well as a lasting legacy, to Medway and the wider sub-region."

Over the past few months, more than 800 people across Medway and Kent have been asked what they think of the idea, and an overwhelming majority back it.

The Department for Education will now consider the submission, with panel interviews set to take place between January 21 and February 6 next year, before an official decision is made in March 2013.

If successful, work to get the college up and running will get under way almost straight away, with plans to recruit a principal designate to lead the school by December next year, in readiness for opening in September 2014.

Although a site has not yet been confirmed, it is understood the preferred option would be an unused building at Brompton Barracks.

Principal of MidKent College, Sue McLeod, said: "We believe Medway's economy would benefit greatly from having a UTC, and we hope the Department for Education will agree with us.

"A UTC will enable a degree of specialisation prior to age 16 that is currently unavailable and which will re-engage and enthuse students."

Medway Council's portfolio holder for children's services, Les Wicks, said: "Medway has a rich history of construction and engineering. This will not only continue this tradition, but also equip a new generation with first class technical skills that will help them pursue careers at all levels."

SKILLED: A UTC would provide a vital boost

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

UCA looks its best ahead of it unveiling fashion retail course

A FASHION course is launching at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) at Rochester.

The three-year degree in BA (Hons) fashion retail management will begin in September 2013 with applications open now.

The course will prepare students for a career in managing a wide-range of fashion outlets; from high street brands and department stores, to independent boutiques and online opportunities.

It will be based at UCA's fashion campus at Rochester which has prepared global fashion icons Karen Millen and Zandra Rhodes, among many others, for their worldwide success.

Thomass Atkinson, head of fashion at UCA, said: "The degree is designed to develop and produce effective leadership skills among students, while at the same time nurturing a strategic understanding of the consumer and drivers of the demand chain to create specialist fashion managers for the industry.

"Students will be prepared to work for any size of retail operation and across all channels of the consumer shopping journey - whether it's in-store or through the web, mobile and social networking devices - in an analytic, strategic, targeted and forward thinking way."

Dr Simon Ofield-Kerr, UCA vice-chancellor, said: "We believe fashion retail management not only complements our current portfolio perfectly but also completes the entire fashion cycle: from design, to manufacture, marketing and promotion to the sophisticated area of fashion retail."

Academy's big partnership

DELIGHT: Tie up with industry

THE Bishop of Rochester Academy in Chatham has announced its first Academy Partnership – with global logistics company, Kuehne-Nagel.

Kuehne & Nagel is one of the largest logistics organisations in the world, managing the movement and storage of goods for household names such as Rolls-Royce, Honda, British Airways, B&Q, Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Next, Virgin Media and many others.

A spokeman for the firm said: "We took a definitive decision back in late 2011 to embark on a UK regional partnership programme with selected schools. The aims of the programme were multi-factorial, but the principle goals were to enhance the profile of the logistics industry within the community and to demonstrate the myriad opportunities the industry can offer young people at all levels."

Academy chiefs are now keen to establish similar partnerships.

See page 30

See who won in the £35m contest for crucial loans

See page 31

Why you should be part of the federation

See page 33

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Autumn edition

This is a world-class opportunity, so take it and build a future

Clarion call to join the revolution at Pfizer site, where 'major announcement' is due

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE world-class laboratories and facilities left behind when Pfizer departed Kent provide a unique opportunity for incoming businesses to take advantage of, say the new owners of the Sandwich site.

Discovery Park bought the plant for an undisclosed fee in August and is now working to develop it as a centre for excellence, mainly in the science and technology fields.

The company hopes to create 3,000 jobs, regenerating the local economy by providing high-end employment in what is now officially identified as an Enterprise Zone by the Government.

Pfizer still maintains a presence at the sprawling site – but as tenant rather than owner – and there are other operations on site, notably LGC, a company that was responsible for drug-testing Olympic athletes at London 2012.

The new landlords say they are very hopeful of announcing a new high-profile incomer before Christmas.

Discovery Park took on the role of regenerating the former headquarters of Samsung on Teesside, which at its height employed 2,000 people before closing in 2005.

Now rechristened Wynyard Park, it employs roughly the same number – but is home to 65 companies rather than just one.

Paul Barker, managing director of »

HIGH HOPES: Discovery Park MD Paul Barker believes that some 3,000 jobs can be created in what is a designated Enterprise Zone

Winners step forward to claim their pot in 'ambitious' £35 million programme

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE first firms to successfully apply for interest-free loans to boost their business and create jobs through the £35 million scheme to expand the east Kent economy were unveiled this week

The companies' plans for growth and increased employment all passed the scrutiny of the Expansion East Kent scheme, which aims to generate 5,000 new jobs by offering firms in Thanet, Dover, Shepway and Canterbury zero-rate loans.

An audience of business leaders and entrepreneurs met the businesses at Dover Cruise Terminal, where Grow For It, a new campaign from Kent County Council, was launched, aimed at driving business investment and growth into east Kent.

KCC is administering the scheme, which uses Government money to boost business.

Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council, said: "The initial tranche of funding has been agreed with six companies, with a further seven whose projects we have approved awaiting sign-off – creating a total of 327 jobs.

"Kent County Council has agreed to invest more than £3.6m in these 13 projects from Expansion East Kent, the investment fund we set up with support from the Government's Regional Growth Fund.

ALL SMILES: County council leader Paul Carter, left, and Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale are both delighted with the Grow For It campaign

"The projects include accountancy, pharmaceutical research, manufacturing, tourism and leisure and childcare.

"In addition, we have a number of other exciting proposals in the pipeline to create more than 5,000 jobs that we are keen to get off the starting blocks.

"We were tremendously impressed by the determination and entrepreneurial spirit shown by these firms. They all possess a sound business basis, a vision of what is possible and the skills necessary to succeed – we wish them all well.

"Expansion East Kent is an ambitious programme. It also aims to unlock private-sector finance, stimulating more than £300m in associated investment over the course of the next four years, creating a massive driver for the east Kent economy.

"Expansion East Kent is providing financial support to firms as interest-free loans.

"This intelligent use of funding means we can recycle the money to provide vital business support on an ongoing basis, benefiting local firms and creating local jobs for years to come."

Among those to benefit are:

- Thanet-based Bumble Beez, which will be a family entertainment centre with provision for children with disabilities.
- South East Retail Limited, which aims to restore a Victorian building and develop a 20-bedroom upmarket boutique hotel in Margate
- Chalk Hill is a small start-up accountancy practice in Shepway supporting leisure and tourism
- H V Wooding is a medium-sized manufacturing business based in Hythe. It is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of precision-engineered components and assemblies whose clients include international companies such as Rolls Royce, Schneider Electric, Honeywell and ABB.
- Formed in 2009, and now in its second full trading year, UK Mobile Bars is a mobile-bar hire service for weddings, parties and events that is expanding into corporate work.
- Dover nursery Creative Minds will provide high-quality care and education, catering for children from three months to five years.

Damian Collins, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, said: "This will help create new jobs by supporting the expansion plans of these firms.

"I would encourage other businesses to apply for support from the East Kent Regional Growth Fund and am pleased to support the new Grow For It campaign, which is working to encourage more local applications and also more businesses in general to look at investing in our area."

Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale added: "I am pleased Margate is represented in the portfolio of companies through South East Retail, which has exciting plans for the development of a job-creating boutique hotel in Margate. This is precisely the kind of leisure-related business that we need to promote in the interests of east Kent."

To find out full details of the application process, simply visit www.kent.gov.uk/expansion.

SMEs given the platform to talk at Westminster

SMALL-business-owners have met Dartford MP Gareth Johnson to discuss the issues and problems they are facing as they seek to boost the local economy.

Among the most important issues were fuel tax, pensions and the increasing retirement age, apprenticeships and young trainee schemes and business financing.

The meeting, including a tour of Westminster and a question-and-answer session with Johnson and Neville Gaunt, chair of the Federation of Small Businesses North Kent branch.

It was designed to give small-business-owners in Dartford and north Kent a chance to give their views on the issues affecting businesses, share their local experiences of trade in the recession and network with each other.

Johnson also emphasised the need to nurture and protect them in Dartford.

The MP said: "The reason I set up this meeting with Neville Gaunt and other FSB members in Dartford was to give local businesses the chance to tell me first-hand the difficulties they are facing.

"There is no doubt the recession has hit small businesses hard, but the passion these entrepreneurs demonstrated during the discussions gave me an even stronger sense of hope for small businesses and for local trade. There is clearly a wealth of innovation and dedication in Dartford, and I fully support the vital local role that small businesses play in our community."

Gaunt added: "It is important small businesses understand the system to ensure their voice is heard and the legislators create an environment for economic growth."

We're trying to bring back the good times to this part of Kent, say new site-owners

« Discovery Park, said: "We're trying to bring the good times back to this part of Kent. At one time 7,000 people worked here and made a big contribution to the local economy.

"We have been speaking to former Pfizer employees who still work in the pharmaceutical business but are based in London, Cambridge – or even Belgium. They still have family in east Kent and would love the chance to come back.

"So there would be no shortage of highly-skilled applicants when companies start to move in here.

"Our aim is to create a business park with a strong science and technology base, but there is a lot of office space available, as well, which could be used for other businesses.

"The legacy Pfizer has left is world-class equipment and facilities which would be beyond the reach of most companies.

"A high-profile business or the research facility of a top university arriving here will act as a spur to bring in others and we are currently in negotiations with two or three at the moment. We are hoping for a major announcement before Christmas."

The idea is that firms – especially smaller operations – can take a lease on premises for as little as three months.

If things go well, then they can expand, but if it's not working out they can "hand back the keys and walk away".

Discovery Park has been talking with companies in the UK and abroad about the benefits of moving to Sandwich; these include an attractive lifestyle for employees and excellent transport links to both London and Europe.

A recent delegation has just come back from a trade fair in Boston, United States.

EYES FORWARD: Discovery Park's owners plan to create a centre at Sandwich with a strong science and technology base

The site is divided into two parts, with the Millennium Buildings built around the turn of the century and still functioning.

The entire site is 220 acres in size, but it also has 13 unoccupied premises built in the 1980s that have been unused for many years.

They are currently costing about £1 million a year to maintain and Discovery Park wants to demolish them – even though some were used recently as a setting in Brad Pitt's new film called World War Z.

Damp has intruded into the carpets and ceilings and the interiors have been left to rot. Interior fittings that are of use will be recycled, but the buildings themselves will be torn down over a period of about 20 weeks, should permission be granted by the local authority.

A planning application was submitted on Friday, November 16, to Dover District Council and a decision is expected in January.

Barker said: "We are committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of Discovery Park, and further to the announcement of our plans to create 3,000 new jobs over the next five years redevelopment of the site will be necessary.

"The application follows our recent announcement detailing our vision for the site, which is to create a sustainable mixed-use community centred on the world-class science and technology facilities.

"With this in mind we believe the proposed demolition of the buildings is necessary, as they are not fit for purpose."

Barker added that the space created would be used to for purpose-built facilities for future tenants.

"This initial phase of proposed activity is crucial," he said. "While under way, it will enable us to focus on attracting global tenants to the Millennium Buildings, which alone offer more than 1.5 million sq ft of premium commercial space."

Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said: "We welcome the confirmation that Discovery Park Ltd has made to the long-term future of the site.

"The proposal for a structured programme of demolition is not unexpected."

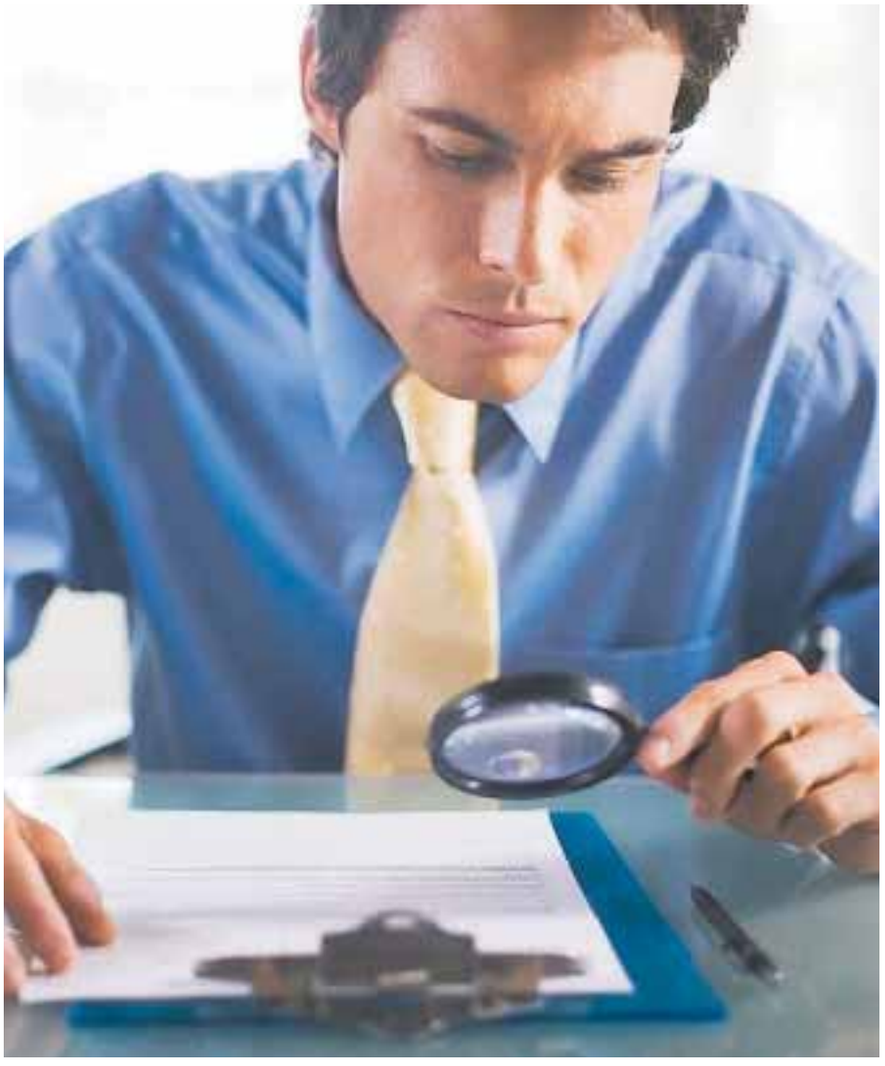
Kent County Council has been enthusiastic in its support of Discovery Park.

KCC leader Paul Carter said: "Discovery Park offers world-class facilities that are looking to grow and prosper."

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

So many reasons you should join the federation

Roger House reveals how the Federation of Small Businesses is leading the fight against ever-growing red tape and bureacracy



Easy-to-access online legal and tax information is a valuable member benefit

IT is the goal of the Federation of Small Businesses to continually deliver unbeatable value for its membership.

Members have significant benefits available to them and membership provides protection and commercial advantage in line with the needs of most businesses.

There are also additional membership facilities available for FSB members delivered by our service-providers.

The FSB Legal Protection Scheme is the cornerstone of membership.

Today's businesses face a plethora of red tape and bureaucracy, exacerbated by the increasingly litigious society within which we live and trade.

The exposure is forever growing. Reliable and practical support is difficult to find and expensive to maintain.

As a right of membership, every business will benefit from;

- 24/7 legal advice from qualified lawyers. Staffed by solicitors and barristers, the FSB legal advice line is provided as a right of membership and the only additional cost is the telephone call, which is charged at local network rates.
- Legal insurance protection. The insurance protection covers full, joint and retired and associate members for a wide range of business-related activities. The insurance protection includes legal fees and statutory awards in specified disputes, including employment and tax. There is a limit of £50,000 for ANY ONE CLAIM; however, the protection is available for more than one claim up to a MAXIMUM of £1 million in any one year. The insurance is subject to terms and conditions.
- Legal information is online. Members are able to access information and documentation on employment and commercial law, tax and health and safety available through the FSB website when logged in as a member.

With thousands of members using the site every month, it is clear that the provision of easy-to-access online legal and tax information is a valuable member benefit.

Members continue to find it useful, informative and necessary in the battle to keep abreast of legal developments in employment law, commercial and business law and health and safety information.

In addition, there is a huge range of other benefits. It is entirely a member-led organisation overseen by a regional committee and driven at the grass roots by five local branches and their committees.

With almost 7,000 members, there is a growing value in the networking and collaboration opportunities, together with the opportunity to meet and lobby both local and national politicians at all levels.

For more information, please phone the office on 01622 688134 or email office.kent@fsb.org.uk.

I look forward to seeing you either as a member or at one of the many networking events I attend. You will always be made welcome in the FSB.

Roger House, regional chairman, Federation of Small Businesses

LOOK CLOSELY: Companies across the county need all the help they can get when it comes to tackling the small print of contracts and legislation... the Federation of Small Businesses is always ready and willing to help its members in an increasingly thankless task

THE Federation of Small Businesses says the Chancellor's Autumn Statement must put small businesses at the heart of reforms.

The FSB is calling for:

- Increased competition in the banking sector to provide finance to small firms by setting out plans for a Small Business Bank.
- Reform of the labour market and an extension to the National Insurance Contributions Holiday scheme.
- A simplified tax system and the planned 3 pence fuel-duty rise to be scrapped.

The federation is urging George Osborne to use his Autumn Statement to put a firm plan in place for Kent's small firms to grow.

House said: "Small-business policymaking has been subject to a range of confusing patchwork approaches that have often had minimal impact on the ground.

"We want to see a clear plan of action from the Chancellor which he can take forward to Budget 2013, detailing the long-term support small firms need.

"Key to this is going to be the Small Business Bank and eventually how it can become the Small Business Administration supporting small businesses over the long term."

Look to the centre that helps to repair the economy and delivers solutions

Get advice and ensure your company isn't one of the many that fall so early

By Roger House

THE Centre for Micro Business is a Community Interest Company – a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to "repairing the economy" through improving the performance and capability of those setting out to start a business or those seeking growth in an existing business with up to 10 employees.

Government figures indicate greater survival for those having taken professional advice.

Eighty per cent of businesses starting without advice fail; of the remainder, 60 per cent seeking advice succeed.

The centre delivers a unique programme devised by business practitioners in pragmatic and logical stages with a compelling delivery process.

If you are ambitious to start a business or grow an existing one, whether commercial or social enterprise, the CMB will deliver a structured and cost-effective solution.

Everything is focused on the individual and brings practical resources to support you with realistic and pragmatic advice and guidance. All you need to bring is your passion and energy.

The concept for the CMB has been well researched and tested with a wide range of organisations and decision-makers in the public, private and education sectors.

With the demise of the publicly-funded Business Link service, there is a need to fill the gap with a quality-controlled alternative, based on delivery by business people with the aid of selected appropriate partners. It has the capacity to be scaled into a national network – working with the best business practitioners and innovative thinkers, partnered with educational and sector associates,

The CMB has created structured umbrella organisation with quality-maintained programmes providing services, knowledge and facilities designed to support and develop the micro business from start-up to growth, through individual and collaborative activity.

Our stakeholder team incorporates representatives from each of the sectors; we also have memorandum of understanding with the social enterprise and voluntary sectors and a significant agreement bringing the support of FE College input.

This is a model for scalability.

The objective is to help create viable and sustainable businesses through the preparation of their owner-operators in all aspects of core business activity.

To assist them in being creative, innovative and, ultimately, fit to supply, fit for investment, fit to employ and fit for growth.

Delivering programmes through events, groups and one-to-one sessions is the approach, backed by free mentoring or paid coaching as appropriate to the programme.

There are three main strands with their own programme formats for start-up (New Me), companies ambitious to grow (Fit to Grow) and a growing team of trained business mentors.

Working with the CMB, you will have access and signposting to:

- active entrepreneurs
- business-plan preparation
- sales and marketing advice
- business resources
- financial advice
- potential investors
- major networking groups
- mentoring
- Educational institutions
- HR and employment advice
- bid-writing support
- apprentices
- coaching
- collaboration groups
- using standards
- expert consultants

Our programmes

New Me is designed by business for business and based on the best techniques and knowledge base available. It is an umbrella for bringing together a wide range of specialists in a structured format taking a prospective business-owner through a logical and pragmatic series of steps.

This removes the unknown and lays the foundation for business sustainability.

It is delivered in programmes from taster, business accelerator, intermediate and advanced.

The material and programme concept are well proven and CMB is working with a number of organisations to roll out the programme across the south of England.

Fit to Grow will enable business-owners to build a business strategy for growth and engage their staff team in the process, embedding a company-wide approach to the business development.

Working primarily with individuals and small complementary groups, the programme sets out to address the findings following an initial business assessment.

The CMB prepares individuals seeking to become mentors and provides signposting to businesses either from its own database or through the IoEE (Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs) portal. Training is delivered by a SFEDI-accredited partner under the national Get Mentoring programme and brings to the CMC a SFEDI Centre of Excellence.

For information, please contact:
The Centre for Micro Business.
Telephone: 0845 689 1290; Roger House: 07792 868230 or Roger Gabriel: 07429 406090
Web: www.cmbcic.co.uk;
Email: info@cmbcic.co.uk

WANT TO START OR EXPAND A BUSINESS IN EAST KENT?
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EXPANSION EAST KENT LOAN
To find out more: www.kent.gov.uk/expansion
Regional Growth Fund
Kent County Council

Companies fail to cash in on capital allowance tax breaks

SMALL businesses across the county could be in line for a tax-break windfall worth in the region of £220 million, according to new research by capital allowances specialist Portal Tax Claims.

An estimated 6,175 firms in Kent are still eligible for the tax rebate under Government rules for businesses owning commercial property.

Most large corporations have taken full advantage of the system of capital allowances, according to Portal Tax Claims, but many small and medium-sized enterprises are failing to lodge a comprehensive claim, but the company says it is very much in their interests to do so.

Experts say it is up to the businesses to look into the issue as it may not be one with which their financial department is familiar.

Shaun Murphy, managing director, said: "Businesses in Kent are missing a trick as far as capital allowances are concerned, often assuming that their accountant has the matter in hand.

"A second common misconception is that capital allowances only apply to items such as computers and vehicles.

"Our research shows that many firms are failing to take their business premises into account and that each property potentially contains thousands of claimable items.

"Submitting a rebate can be daunting for the uninitiated, but the financial rewards can be significant."

The Portal Tax Claims research suggests that some 2,000 businesses that submitted this type of capital allowances claim to HMRC in 2012 would have received an average tax relief pay-out of more than £36,000.

Allowances can often be found up to a value of 40 per cent of a property's purchase price and it is believed that about 90 per cent of commercial buildings in Kent are eligible for a rebate.

MAKING BIG STRIDES: From the Bibby Financial Services survey there seems to be increased business confidence that the economy is about to come out of its current slump

Companies see better times ahead provided cash is made available

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A RETURN to steady economic growth across the county over the next six months is the bold prediction of one of the UK's leading financial specialists – but business chiefs say that if it is to happen cash for investment must be made more easily available.

Bibby Financial Services conducted a survey that has shown an increase in business confidence in Kent among small and medium-sized businesses.

But they are also calling for easier access to finance to help drive recovery, according to the latest economic study.

While the level of new customers and orders for goods and services has fallen over the third quarter of 2012 across the South East, Jon Charsley, of Bibby Financial Services, says the message he is hearing from SMEs in the region is that many are gearing up for an anticipated recovery in 2013.

The Business Factors Index, produced quarterly by Bibby Financial Services, tracks the outlook and performance of businesses across the UK.

The latest data suggest almost a quarter (22 per cent) have been investing in their business over the past 12 months, almost double the 12 per cent reported at the same point last year, while about one in five (19 per cent) describes their business as 'doing really well' – a significant increase on 3 per cent in the previous quarter.

A third say they have seen an increase in customer enquiries about their business, which is marginally up on the national average of 31 per cent. In addition, 25 per cent want to see a loosening of lending criteria to enable greater access to finance to help grow business.

The key findings of the Bibby Financial Services Business Factors Index for the South East include:

- Almost a third, 29 per cent, said they had seen an increase in new customers over Q3, down from 53 per cent in Q2 and 38 per cent year-on-year
- Almost a quarter, 22 per cent of business, said they had seen an increase in orders over Q3, just down from 23 per cent in Q2
- Just 12 per cent of firms say things are so tough that they have had to make cuts, compared with 25 per cent in Q2 and 38 per cent year-on-year
- 62 per cent of firms have not applied for external finance over the past 12 months, up 54 per cent year-on-year.

Big story in the region is the increasing levels of investment by our SMEs during recession

Charsley said: "Although we have seen a fall in the level of trade, we have to remember the context of the recession and, although it is encouraging the Office for National Statistics has said the economy grew by 1 per cent in Q3, the reality for many is that trading is still extremely tough.

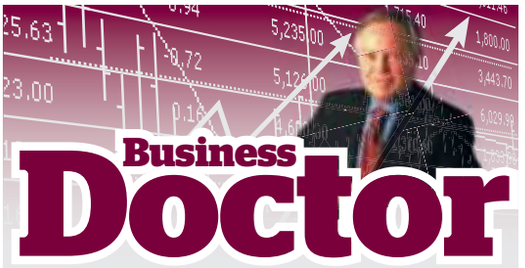
"What we see as the big story in the region is the increasing level of investment as it underlines that SMEs have not sat back during the period of recession but have been investing in their future.

"However, what does concern us is that 62 per cent of SMEs have not applied for any external funding in the past 12 months, which could hamper any attempt at a sustained recovery.

"We feel that business-owners are not applying for funds because they believe they will be turned down."

"In order to achieve a sustainable economic recovery, it is vital businesses have the necessary funding support in place.

"Alternative funding facilities such as invoice finance will adapt to the business as it grows by advancing funds based on the value of outstanding customer sales invoices without the burden of taking on more debt."



Business Doctor

PETER HOBBS demonstrates how your local Chamber of Commerce can be a big help during difficult times

RUNNING a small business can be a lonely and at times difficult job, particularly during this very challenging economic climate.

That's where your Chamber of Commerce can help, not just with valuable advice and support but also by providing businesses with a chance to meet and seek out solutions with others who may have faced similar challenges in the past.

Here in Kent there are a variety of local Chambers, many servicing town-based businesses and run by volunteer business people.

Some have been operating for more than 150 years; all are fiercely independent, non-profit-making and non-party-political and funded principally by their members.

British Chambers of Commerce Accredited

In addition to the local Chambers, there is also a second tier of Chambers that cover the whole of Kent and Medway and provide representation and a more comprehensive range of services, information and guidance to a broader sector of businesses large and small.

Kent Channel Chamber is one of those that are accredited nationally with the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) to ensure we deliver only the very highest level of service and performance. The BCC network is a powerful and influential network of 52 Chambers, which represent more than 100,000 businesses across the UK.

1:1 Advice and Support

A confidential 1:1 advisory service has been one of our most valued services for many years, particularly for small and micro businesses.

These entrepreneurs have limited opportunities for seeking out help and support and often miss out on any locally-held events because of workplace pressures.

Our expert advisers are available locally on a regular basis and can also provide practical help to small business and start-ups wishing to take advantage of the £35 million Expansion East Kent Loan Fund.

Enterprise Clubs

Starting out in business can be particularly daunting, but budding entrepreneurs in Kent need not be alone.

Regardless of the type of new business you are exploring, or whether you plan to work from home, open a shop or rent office accommodation, your Chamber can help you.

Monthly Enterprise Clubs have now been running for a year or more and are an ideal support facility.

The meetings are free and provide an informal networking opportunity where you can share ideas and receive expert advice from professionals in the local business community.

Volunteer Business Mentoring

Business people are also being encouraged to contribute to their own communities by acting as mentors to local voluntary-sector organisations.

These mentors will act as a critical friend to some of the most inspirational and committed people in the third sector, able to share skills and experiences with the ultimate goal of helping these often fragile organisations be successful and achieve their social aims.

Volunteers from the business community are now being sought who have professional experience and expertise in a variety of areas: from consulting to accounting, marketing, HR or IT and more.

Whatever your professional background, our Chamber is looking for people who like a challenge, who are willing to listen and learn and who want to use their professional skills for good.

Peter Hobbs is the chief executive of Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce

BusinessQuarter | Profiles

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER

Innovating to help meet the challenge of business

THE business climate continues to fluctuate and take on new forms, which means if you want to retain or increase your market share then you have to adapt to the changing marketplace.

Business as usual is the easy option, but you could find yourself being left behind.

Innovation and creativity are two words fast becoming the norm for Kent firms, which are continuing to grow and develop.

Kent Invicta Chamber faces the same trials and tribulations as all other businesses in the private sector, and we too have had to rise to the challenges brought about by the new economic landscape.

The one thing it has done is make us focus on what we provide and – importantly – what the business community needs from us to prosper.

This objective has seen our membership grow month on month, making us one of the largest and most active chambers in the South East, which has to be of benefit to the Kent business community.

Our focus has been on providing a range of products and services that meet the needs of the county's business community, whether they want to source more local businesses or look for overseas markets.

With a rather stagnant home economy, we have paid particular attention to providing support to companies when working in international markets – zeroing in on areas that concern both new and existing exporters, including payments and exchange rates, documentation and legal obligations.

Partnership working has certainly been a key to our success.

There are many organisations out there doing great things, so we don't look at reinventing the wheel – we look at where we can add value.

Providing an environment that is conducive to business growth and enterprise is a key remit of the Kent Invicta Chamber

We provide that all-important voice to those who the make the decisions that affect us all, leaving business to get on with what it does best – creating wealth, jobs and opportunities.

Kent Invicta Chamber

The County's Premier Business Support Network

British Chambers of Commerce Accredited

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Join the largest Chamber in the County for less than the price of a daily cup of coffee.

From only 53 p per day

The Ultimate Business Network

Join today!

Contact your local Membership Representative:

North Kent — Louisa Felsted louisa@kentinvictachamber.co.uk

Maidstone & West Kent — Colin Davies colin@kentinvictachamber.co.uk

Ashford & Canterbury — Sezen Zeki sezen@kentinvictachamber.co.uk

Or visit www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk

Head Office: 01233 503838 Ashford Business Point, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Ashford TN24 0LH

Maidstone Office: 01622 695544 The Gate House, Archbishop's Palace, Mill Street, Maidstone ME15 6YE

Gravesend Office: 01474 550026 The Old Town Hall, High Street, Gravesend DA11 0AZ

www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk

MID KENT COLLEGE

College training courses can answer your needs

BUSINESSES keen to maintain a competitive edge are urged to take advantage of the courses and products offered by Business Services at MidKent College.

From bespoke training and apprenticeships to the college's very own Microsoft Academy and JobShop, MKC Business Services can help improve a firm from top to bottom.

And, with the economy getting better, there's never been a better time for employers to ensure they stay ahead of the pack.

Based at the college's new higher-education centre at its Maidstone campus, MKC Business Services consists of a team of experienced education and training experts.

Business Services provides a wide range of bespoke training packages, offering professional qualifications in a variety of courses including training and leadership, health and safety and lots more.

Business Services manager Jacqui Brown said: "Training can be delivered during the working day, twilight evenings or weekends to address your needs and fit in with your schedules. We work with you and your team to determine the course content, ensuring it is highly relevant to you and your staff."

Firms keen to keep up with the pace of

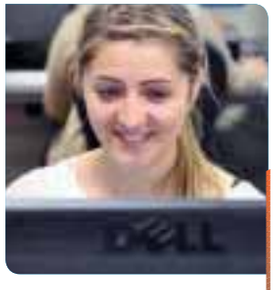
technology can take advantage of the Microsoft Academy, which offers fully-accredited technical and Office programs from a dedicated IT suite at the college's Medway campus.

JobShop provides recruitment solutions by advertising job vacancies to existing students for free. Only students who fulfil certain criteria are notified of vacancies, ensuring the most appropriate candidates are put forward.

Business Services is also responsible for more than 20 apprenticeship programmes, giving employers the support they need to train the skilled workforce of the future.

Visit www.mkcbusiness.co.uk or phone 01622 624900 for more information.

Join Kent's best kept secret



Microsoft® IT Academy

Microsoft Technical Training/Microsoft Specialist Courses

The Microsoft IT Academy at MidKent College offers certified and bespoke IT training courses for IT professionals and business users, to increase job security and enhance career opportunities.

Flexible learning options - including evening and Saturday classes - are available, using a blended learning approach with classroom based activities and e-learning options.

Courses delivered by Microsoft Certified trainers at our Microsoft IT Academy in Maidstone

Pre-Christmas Special Offers

> **Microsoft Office Excel Core** - Thursday 6th December £84 including exam (normally £164)

> **Microsoft Office Word Core** - Tuesday 11th December £84 including exam (normally £164)

BOOK NOW!

Email microsoft.academy@midkent.ac.uk **or telephone** 01622 624900

Telephone: 01622 624900
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If you would like to advertise in the next edition of BusinessQuarter please contact Sallie Payne on 01303 817056 or email sallie.payne@archant.co.uk

THORLEY TAVERNS

Hotels perfect setting to relax – and talk business

ADDING a relaxed atmosphere to your conference requirements while being surrounded by some of the finest views on the Kent coast, Thorley Taverns provide three fantastic venues.

PEGWELL BAY HOTEL

THE Pegwell Bay Hotel, incorporates two stunning conference rooms, along with a large decked area on the water's edge.

The Clifton Suite can accommodate 70 delegates comfortably, along with the Ravenscliffe Suite, which caters for up to 100 people.

Full catering and conference stationery is available, together with wifi and internet connections and a large on-site car park.

The venue also offers a 42-bedroom hotel, with conference package rates available.

Telephone: 01843 599590
Email: reception@pegwellbayhotel.co.uk
Website: www.pegwellbayhotel.co.uk

OAK HOTEL

THE Oak Hotel provides its fabulously-appointed Tiffany Suite, with stunning views over Ramsgate's Royal harbour and marina.

Comfortably seating up to 60 delegates, the room boasts its own balcony with stunning views and rest rooms.

Full catering and conference stationery is available, as well as wifi and internet connections. The 34-bedroom hotel also offers discounted rates for conference delegates.

Telephone: 01843 583686
Email: reception@oakhotel.co.uk
Website: www.oakhotel.co.uk

BROADSTAIRS PAVILION

THE Broadstairs Pavilion On The Sands offers a unique conference facility for those looking for a relaxed atmosphere by the sea.

Literally 'on the golden sands' of Viking Bay, the venue can accommodate between 80 and 200 delegates.

The spacious and airy room provides panoramic views over the bay, a large stage and sep-arate toilet facilities and leads out onto the veranda and sands.

Fully equipped with conference stationery, wifi and internet connections, it also provides onsite catering.

Accomodation can be provided at a discounted rate for delegates at the two hotels above, which are only 10 minutes from this venue.

Telephone: 01843 600999
Email: enquiry@pavilion-broadstiars.co.uk
Website: www.pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk

FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES

Networking benefits of the FSB give you chance to prosper and be heard

BUSINESS men and women across the county are being asked to join other like-minded individuals by becoming part of the Federation of Small Businesses.

Almost 7,000 businesses in Kent and Medway are members of the FSB and the benefits of joining are huge – just like the numbers of people involved.

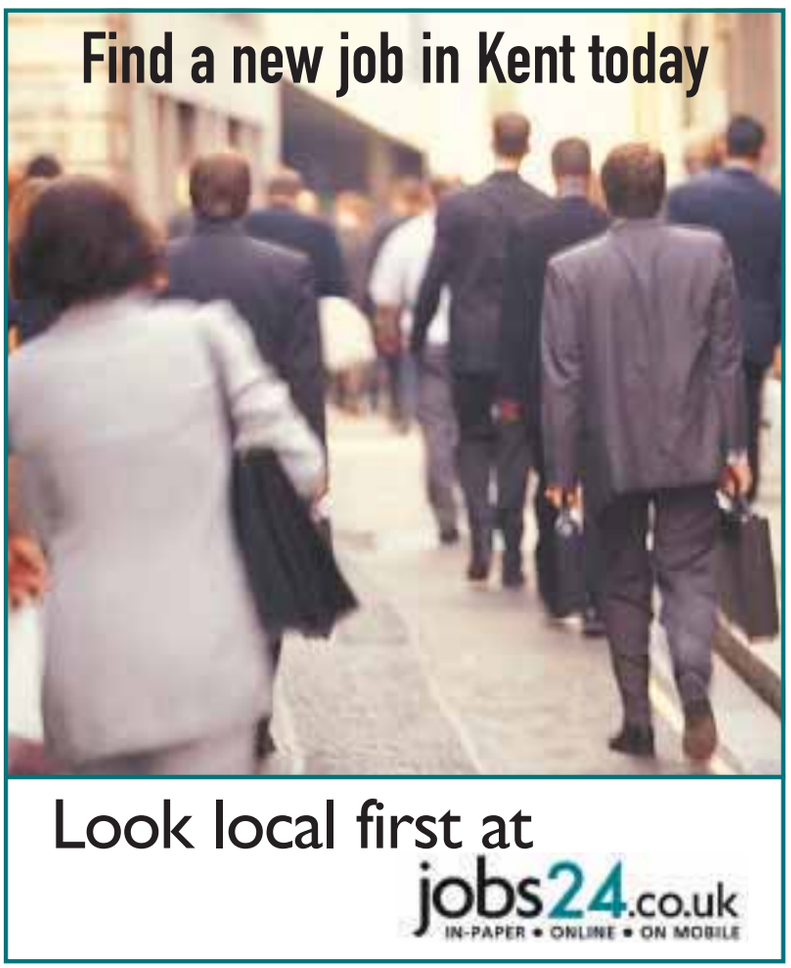
It's the perfect way to meet others through the many networking opportunities that are staged to give everyone the chance to grow and prosper. The organisation is also a powerful voice and lobbies on behalf of the county's business community.

Accolades from members include "I joined to benefit from the best rates for credit card merchants" and "I joined because I want to network with like-minded business".

Other advantages quoted include "We joined because we wanted the back-up of 24/365 legal support" and "I joined because I get free banking with an annual loyalty credit".

The FSB works with all types of business and can offer assistance in many fields, including marketing and law.

The Federation of Small Businesses Kent and Medway can be reached on 01622 688134 and office.kent@fsb.org.uk www.fsb.org.uk/151.



Kent Invicta Chamber

The County's Premier Business Support Network

Kent Invicta Chamber is the ultimate business support network in Kent. The Chamber provides Membership services, Business Advice, International Trade services and much more.

Covering an area of Kent that includes, Ashford, Dartford, Canterbury, Medway, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Sittingbourne, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, the Chamber is perfectly placed to promote, support and facilitate business across the County.

WHY HAVE OVER 1100 KENT BUSINESSES JOINED KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

We offer your business:

Networking & Promotion	• Over 160 networking events per year - including Over 60 FREE • Opportunities to show case your products and services at our B2B Exhibitions • Free advertising in Chamber publications • Free database of over 1100 Kent companies to promote your business
International Trade	• Discounted Export documentation service • Advice and Guidance in seeking new markets
Cost Reduction	• A range of discount products and services designed to reduce your overheads and increase your bottom line
Training & Development	• Workshops, Seminars and Training Courses designed to keep you up to date, ahead of the game and better placed to drive your business forward
Business Support	• Business Advisory sessions to talk through your business proposals, aspirations and concerns in a private and confidential environment
Meeting and Conferencing facilities	• Small board rooms through to large conference rooms • Accommodating meeting ranging from 2 to 120 delegates • Ample free parking • Attractive discounts
Representation	• A voice to champion your business concerns at all levels

Join the largest Chamber in the County for less than the price of a daily cup of coffee.

From only 53p per day

Our members enjoy over 30 FREE or money-saving professional support services to help them grow their business.

The Ultimate Business Network

Join today!

Contact your local Membership Representative:

North Kent Louisa Felsted louisa@kentinvictachamber.co.uk
Maidstone & West Kent Colin Davies colin@kentinvictachamber.co.uk
Ashford & Canterbury Sezen Zeki sezen@kentinvictachamber.co.uk

Or visit **www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk**

British Chambers of Commerce Accredited

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Head Office: 01233 503838 Ashford Business Point, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Ashford TN24 0LH
Maidstone Office: 01622 695544 The Gate House, Archbishop's Palace, Mill Street, Maidstone ME15 6YE **Gravesend Office:** 01474 550026 The Old Town Hall, High Street, Gravesend DA11 0AZ

www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk

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- Health and Safety
- HM Forces and Defence
- Hospitality and Catering
- Human Resources
- IT, Telecoms
- Law Enforcement/Security
- Legal
- Maintenance
- Management and Business
- Manufacture, Production
- Marketing and PR
- Mechanical/Engineering
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- Medical and Carers
- Public Sector
- Recruitment
- Retail
- Sales
- Science and Pharmaceutical
- Shipping and Offshore
- Skilled Trades
- Sports and Fitness
- Transport and Delivery
- Travel and Tourism
- Veterinary/Animal Services
- Voluntary Work
- Warehousing and Logistics

NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING TRUST

We are a highly successful and ambitious 11-18 school. Our 2012 Ofsted has recognised that Northfleet School for Girls is a "good" school.

Recently rebuilt, the Learning Trust offers an exciting opportunity to teach in a collegiate atmosphere where our motto "Always Learning, Learning All Ways" applies to everyone. The school has a strong sense of community and a belief in the values of self and social responsibility.

Applications are invited from experienced teachers for:

History and English

Recruitment & Retention allowance for a high calibre candidate

Working with subject specialist colleagues in our Communication & Culture Domain you will also work closely with teachers of Modern Foreign Languages and Ethics. Subject specific pen portraits can be found on our website.

Both History and English are taught to A Level and experience in these areas is essential.

You will be innovative and imaginative and create challenging and engaging lessons. A clear understanding of AfL and APP are vital.

FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING OFSTED REPORT AVAILABLE ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE - www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Applications now being invited for GTP opportunities in English, Mathematics, Geography, MFL & Media for 2013 start

Application form and further information available on request or on school website (**www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk**).

Applications to **Personnel, at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ**
Tel: **01474 831020** or email **personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk**

Appointment will be subject to a full enhanced CRB check.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS - **10th December 2012**

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Curriculum Leaders for Maths and English (2 posts)

Come and join the team of one of the largest and most successful further and higher education colleges in the South East. With state-of-the-art campuses in Medway and Maidstone and strong financial health, we are passionate about teaching, learning and the development of our staff.

MidKent College has achieved excellent results in Functional Skills and is looking to broaden its provision in GCSE Maths and English to meet the requirements of Post 16 Study Programmes.

We are on the hunt for two exceptional teachers with the skills and ambition to lead on this major new development and to develop other teaching staff to the highest standards. If you have a passion for delivering high quality teaching and learning, a strong track record in Maths or English and the drive and energy to implement change, we want to hear from you.

Successful applicants will earn a basic salary of £38,169 and can look forward to 35 days annual leave, eligibility to join the teachers' pension scheme and other benefits.

So, think you're up to the job? Great - contact the College to request an application pack.

Closing date: noon on Thursday 13 December 2012

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

The future of local media

Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

KENT LIFE

An opportunity has arisen to join Archant Life part of Archant Community Media Ltd, the UK's largest independently owned media business.

As a **home worker** you will be based in Kent, a presentable, self-motivated sales professional will be responsible for selling advertising solutions for our Kent Life magazine. This is an opportunity for an experienced salesperson to develop their career in a competitive market across a multi-platform portfolio.

For this varied role you will need to work efficiently under pressure, prioritise your workload depending on deadlines and be able to demonstrate sales experience in a competitive market. Good communication skills are essential, whether by telephone, face-to-face or in written form.

In return we offer a very competitive package which includes a generous uncapped commission scheme. The exceptional benefits include 5 weeks annual leave and a contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period). A wide range of voluntary benefits include a cycle scheme, childcare vouchers, Westfield Health Scheme and Archant Gold (charity matched funding).

To apply for the above position please apply online at www.archant.co.uk and click on vacancies

NHS

South East Coast Ambulance Service
NHS Foundation Trust

Recruiting for 111 Contact Centre - Ashford

Health Advisor
(full training provided)

£7.23 – up to £9.04 per hour
27.5 or 22 hours per week

Please visit
http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/
and search job reference
278-111HA-1012-MB
for further details.

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avante community support

Would you like to make a positive difference caring for people in your community?

If the answer is YES, come and join our dedicated professional team to make that difference.

Experience is preferable but not essential as full training will be given.

Make that move to help make that positive difference.

Avante Community Support is a not for profit charitable organisation providing care and support for people, so they can remain living independently in their own home environment.

For further details please contact Recruitment and Training Officer Amanda Andrews on 01795 597454

To advertise in this section 01303 817056

Thamesview SCHOOL

Learning Support Assistant

Fixed Term Contract – 1 Year
28.5 hours a week (5 days)
Term time only - 39 wks per year (including Staff Development Days)
Kent Range 3 (£14,241.00 to £16,144.00 pa)
Pro rata to £9,256.00 - £10,493.00 pa

A friendly and adaptable person is required to work across subject areas, to proactively support students with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. It would be an advantage to have experience of working in a similar post or school setting and a good level of numeracy and literacy (Level 2 or equivalent) is essential.

To apply please submit with your application to Kay McGowan, HR Manager, a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position, together with evidence of why you are suitable for the role, and how you have developed your skills in previous roles in readiness for this position.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 8081120.

Closing Date: 10th December 2012 (9.00 am)

Interviews: 18th December 2012

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure.
Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Hourly Paid Electrical Installation Course Tutor/Lecturer — ***Ref: SESS***

Hourly Rate: £23.44 - £27.22 per hour
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to deliver Electrical Installation to learners studying from level 1 to level 3. The ideal candidate will have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Building Services Industry, have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in the relevant field. The successful candidate will hold an Advanced Craft Certificate, as well as Inspection and testing of Installations and possess either a D32/34 or A & V Awards and hold a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work towards teaching and assessing qualifications.

Maintenance Engineer , permanent, full time — ***Ref: P0622***

Salary: £15,891 to £19,464 per annum
(dependent on qualifications and experience) 37 hours per week
Medway Campus, with some travel to Maidstone

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in a stimulating environment. Successful candidates will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level whilst receiving training and working in the Facilities and Reception department.
Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.

Closing date for both posts: midday on Thursday 13 December 2012

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School

TEACHER OF HUMANITIES

St John's is a successful Visual Arts College in Gravesend which seeks to appoint an enthusiastic teacher of Humanities with either a Geography or Religious Education specialism.

Please contact the school on **01474 534718** or e-mail **office@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk** for an application pack.

More details, including job descriptions and application forms can also be downloaded from our website: **www.raaave.com**

This post will be subject to safer recruitment procedures.

Closing date: Friday, 14 December.

The future of local media

Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

Kent on Saturday **Kent on Sunday** **Your Tunbridge Wells** **Your Medway** **Your Swale**

yourashford **yourcanterbury** **yourdeal** **yourdover**

yourmaidstone **yoursandwich** **yourshepway** **yourthanet**

We are currently looking to recruit the following office based positions:

- **Telephone Sales Executive** - Classified
- **Telephone Sales Executive** - Education, Business and Training

Both positions are permanent roles, based in Smeeth, Nr Ashford.

If you are a highly driven, confident, self-motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, then apply for one of these jobs today.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.

We pride ourselves on good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Due to the location, you will be required to have your own transport.

To apply for the above position please apply online at www.archant.co.uk and click on vacancies

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PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01907/FUL: The Pearl Fisher, 103 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, CT5 1NL Part change of use of east wing of existing Bed and Breakfast (C1) to self contained residential dwelling (C3). **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hartley-Trigg** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01921/FUL: Harbour Garage, Tower Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BJ Rear extension to expand the car showroom, service workshop and to form a covered PDI (Pre-delivery Inspection) area. **Applicant: Harbour Garage (Whitstable) Ltd** Reason: Site notice only.
CA//12/01943/FUL: Vernon Grange, 35 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3JB Repair the left gate pillar at the entrance to the driveway and widen the entrance to the driveway by one metre. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Withrington** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01944/LB: Vernon Grange, 35 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3JB To repair left gate pillar at the entrance to the driveway and widen the entrance to the driveway by 1m. The driveway entrance to Vernon Grange, 35 Old Dover Road is located in Vernon Place.
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Withrington Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01970/FUL: 82 Regent Street, Whitstable, CT5 1JQ Single-storey rear in-fill extension and new tiled roof and external alterations to existing conservatory structure. **Applicant: Mr Colley** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01980/FUL: Land at Bekesbourne Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5EB Erection of cherry coverings and framework. **Applicant: Mr Riccini** Reason: Major development.
CA//12/01998/FUL: Land off Coopers Lane, Simmonds Road, Wincheap, Canterbury Proposed storage units (3 No)
Applicant: Selby and Selby Canterbury Ltd Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02026/FUL: 2 Marine Terrace, Whitstable, CT5 1EJ Single-storey rear extension **Applicant: Mrs Fewings** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02044/FUL: 17 Palace Street, Canterbury, CT1 2DZ Change of use of part of the shop from retail (Use Class A1) to a mixed use church shop (Use Class A1) and tea rooms on the ground and lower ground floors (Use Class A3). **Applicant: Canterbury Church Shop Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02051/FUL: 5 Greenacre, Kingston, CT4 6JF Single-storey rear extension infilling an existing open courtyard.
Applicant: Mr T and Mrs C Arter Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02054/FUL: Lombard House, Upper Bridge Street, Canterbury Replacement shopfront and change of use of front ground floor area from offices to mixed Class A1/A2/D1(wellbeing centre) uses and of the rear ground floor area from offices to mixed Class A2 office related use and Class D1 wellbeing centre. **Applicant: Mr L Sloggett** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02062/FUL: Land adjacent to 74 Wincheap, Canterbury Erection of three apartments extending over two storeys and associated landscaping works. **Applicant: Mr A Uddin** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02065/FUL: Millbank House, Ford Hill, Hoath, CT3 4LP Change of use from meadow to residential garden with alterations to levels and proposed pole barn. **Applicant: Mr S Hills** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02067/FUL: Park End, Station Chine, Herne Bay, CT6 5SS Erection of detached dwelling with associated parking. **Applicant: Mr Love** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02073/FUL: The Swan Inn, High Street, Sturry, CT2 0BD Renovations and extensions to building to form a restaurant and six letting rooms together with demolition of lean-to outbuilding and erection of entrance gates. **Applicant: Augustus Moon LLP** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02078/LB: The Swan Inn, High Street, Sturry, CT2 0BD Renovations and extensions to building to form a restaurant and six letting rooms together with demolition of lean-to outbuilding and erection of entrance gates. **Applicant: Augustine Moon LLP** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 24 December 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 30 November 2012

Public Notice

2 December 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

Application for new groynes at Herne Bay

Notice is hereby given that Canterbury City Council has applied to the Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake the construction of new groynes at Herne Bay. Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at 124 High Street, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5JY.

Copies of the Application and associated information may be viewed on line in the Public Register at **www.marinemanagement.org.uk/publicregister**

Representations or objections in respect of the application should be made in writing, giving an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent, to the Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH, or alternatively emailed to **laura.calvert@marinemanagement.org.uk**, within 28 days from 29 November 2012, quoting reference MLA/2012/00432.

The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/AS/0033/2012 - Proposed development at Unit 2, Cobbswood Industrial Estate, Brunswick Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1EH

Ball Contractors is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for change of use from warehouse/storage to waste transfer station/waste segregation and storage of non hazardous waste streams.

KCC/AS/0384/2012 - Proposed development at The John Wallis Academy, Millbank Road, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3HG

KCC Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for reorganisation of the academy site to include the demolition of part of the existing main academy building (Hall and Gym), erection of a new two storey assembly/theatre building and a separate three storey teaching building, reorganisation of hard and soft landscaping and provision of 127 vehicle parking spaces and 104 cycle parking spaces.

You may view these applications via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

KCC/TW/0524/2011 - Proposed development at Westdene, Whetsted Road, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6SD

CLC Construction Ltd is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for retrospective change of use from breakers yard and storage of damaged vehicles and trailers to site office and open storage, screening and crushing of spoil from road excavations and installation of lighting. The proposed development lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt and therefore may not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/TW/0386/2012 - Proposed development at Skinners Kent Academy (Site 2), Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Kent County Council Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for external floodlighting to all weather pitch on site 2 of Skinners Kent Academy, Tunbridge Wells. The proposed development is partly within/adjoins a Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view these applications at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council

Dated: 2 December 2012

Kent County Council

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 17 DECEMBER 2012

SW/12/1261 & SW/12/1474:
Replacement of existing windows. To replace existing stained softwood, storm-proof framed and standard double glazed windows with hardwood flush casement frames with specialised glazed units designed for listed buildings - Dungate Barn, Pitstock Road, RODMERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1316:
Listed Building Consent for alterations and installation of lift for disabled - Swale Borough Council, Alexander Centre, 15-17 Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1406:
Demolition of redundant loose boxes and construction of new single storey office building - Grove End Farm, Bredgar Road, TUNSTALL; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1416:
Variation of Condition (2) of planning permission SW/09/0746 to allow use as children's nursery (Use Class D1) - 43 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/1051/SH# - 96 High Street Dymchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0NP - Section 73 application to vary Condition 4 of planning permission Y04/1581/SH to allow use of the integral garage as additional living space.

Y12/1047/SH+ - Sharpeners End Church Road Hythe Kent CT21 5DP - Retrospective application for formation of raised decking area to south of parking area, replacement of enclosing fencing to parking area, including gate to garden, replacement of existing gravel path with decking and reinstatement of steps to garden.

Y12/0919/SH* - East Cliff Pavilion Wear Bay Road Folkestone Kent CT19 6BL - Change of use and conversion of the existing function rooms to a retail centre. Together with the creation of a self contained flat and other external alterations.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

PLANNING

Public Notice

2 December 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

The Canterbury City Council (3 Petchell Mews) Compulsory Purchase Order No 1 2012

The Housing Act 1985 (Part II) and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981

Compulsory Purchase of Land at 3 Petchell Mews Canterbury Kent CT1 1LB

Notice is hereby given that Canterbury City Council has made The Canterbury City Council (3 Petchell Mews) Compulsory Purchase Order No 1 2012 under section 17 of the Housing Act 1985 (Part II).

It is about to submit this order to the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government for confirmation, and if confirmed, the order will authorise Canterbury City Council to purchase compulsorily the land described below for the purpose of social housing.

A copy of the order and of the accompanying map may be seen at all reasonable hours at Canterbury City Council Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW.

Any objection to the order must be made in writing to The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, National Planning Casework Unit, 5, St Phillip's Place, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2PW before 2 January 2013 and should state the title of the order, the grounds of objection and the objector's address and interests in the land.

Description of land – 3 Petchell Mews, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1LB

Mark Ellender, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1485/S - LAND ADJACENT TO SURRENDEN MEWS, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, KENT - Erection of four 5-bedroom detached houses with integral garages and associated parking and infrastructure. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1536/S - LITTLE CHEVENEY OAST, LITTLE CHEVENEY FARM, SHEEPHURST LANE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9NX - Retrospective planning permission for installation of a swimming pool, surrounding walls and pergola. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1680/N - LAND TO THE WEST OF MARLEY PLASTICS, ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DE - Provision of swales and an infiltration basin. **Reason: 6, 9**

MA/12/1692/S - TOVIL SCOUTS HQ & CAMPSITE, SCOUT ASSOCIATION, STRAW MILL HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6FL - Installation of a 22m high slim line lattice mast topped with antennas (total height 25.1m), dish antenna, equipment cabinets and ancillary development including meter cabinet and combined base, all within 5.5m by 5.5m fenced enclosure. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1955/S - PRIDE OF KENT, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, KENT, TN12 0AH - Conversion of first floor of public house to a self-contained flat and erection of three new dwellings. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1974/S - SMITHS HALL, WEST FARLEIGH HALL, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PE - Reinstatement of three sash windows. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1975/S - SMITHS HALL, WEST FARLEIGH HALL, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PE - Listed Building Consent for the reinstatement of three sash windows. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1989/S - NEW LINE LEARNING ACADEMY, BOUGHTON LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9QL - Outline application for the erection of a primary school with access to be determined at this stage with appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved for subsequent approval. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/1994/S - NEW LINE LEARNING ACADEMY, BOUGHTON LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9QL - Outline application for the erection of a new studio school with access to be determined at this stage with appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved for subsequent approval. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/2008/N - MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LH - Installation of a Royal West Kent statue, plinth and plaque. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/2016/S - GURNEYS COTTAGE, SALTS LANE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BD - Planning permission for the erection of a single storey rear extension. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/2017/S - GURNEYS COTTAGE, SALTS LANE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BD - Conservation Area consent for the demolition of single storey shed to rear. **Reason: 4**

MA/12/2022/S - TOVIL QUARRY SITE, STRAW MILL HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6FL - Outline application for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of residential development with associated parking and landscaping together with the extinguishment of the existing access to Straw Mill Hill and the formation of a new access from Straw Mill Hill/Stockett Lane. Access to be determined at this stage with appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved for subsequent approval. **Reason: 2, 6, 9**

MA/12/2023/S - WAGON LODGE, FORSHAM FARM, FORSHAM LANE, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3EW - Change of use of land and erection of detached garage/store with driveway to be used in association with Wagon Lodge. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2027/S - UPPER CRISBROOK MILL, HAYLE MILL ROAD, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6XR - Demolition of part of detached garage and erection of extension to remaining garage to include garden store and associated works including parking area, paths and changes to land levels. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **16th December 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 2nd December 2012

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/03183/LBC Crooke Cottage Crook Road, Brenchley
- Listed Building Consent: Rear ground floor and first floor extension (LB)

12/03079/FUL Four Nevill Park 4 Nevill Park, Broadwater
- Conversion from residential care home (Class C2) to residential (Class C3) comprising lower ground and ground floor rear extension, a principal residence on ground, first and second floors and a seperate self-contained basement flat with alteration and restoration to all elevations including window and door arrangements; Swimming pool and outbuildings; Landscape works (CA)

12/03082/FULMJ Site Of 1-36 Ropers Gate And 26-60 Summervale Road, Broadwater
- Variation of condition 5, 6, 7, 10, 16, 17, 21, 31, 42 of TW/11/03812 - Demolition of 50 existing flats and 4 No. shops; Construction of 62 dwellings comprising houses and flats with new retail unit/post office, road network, parking and landscape - Conditions 5, 6, 7, 16, 21 - varied to 'Prior to commencement of works related to the individual elements hereunder described on the development hereby approved ..'; Condition 10 - varied to 'Prior to occupation'; Condition 17, 31, 42 - varied to 'Prior to construction' (MAJOR)

12/02862/LBC The Granary Hale Farm, Capel
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to first floor by dividing up space between existing oak beams and uprights, and new studwork to form separate bedroom and landing area (LB)

12/03205/FUL The Bull Inn The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Minor external works with works to ground floor bar and restaurant and first floor letting rooms (CA) (LB)

12/03209/LBC The Bull Inn The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent: Minor external works with works to ground floor bar and restaurant and first floor letting rooms (LB)

12/03011/LBC Summerhill House 73 London Road, Culverden
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of W.C. rear of ground floor, increase size of side room at south end of kitchen and form an opening connection to room beyond; re-instatement of former opening adjacent to bottom of service stairs, connecting through to centre room on south side of building, and removal of wall under the main stair up to first floor; formation of new W.C. beside service stairs (LB)

12/03203/FULMJ Tolehurst Farm Knoxbridge, Frittenden
- Replacement of 7 existing free range poultry buildings with 2 new poultry buildings (MAJOR) (LB)

12/03200/LBC Bricklayers West Road, Goudhurst
- Listed building consent - Basement water proofed and converted to provide an utility room (amendment to TW/11/01101) (LB)

12/03172/FUL Little Pixhall Farm High Street, Hawkhurst
- Replacement agricultural barn (LB)

12/03098/LBC Milestone Cottage Brenchley Road, Horsmonden
- Demolition of external canopy. Erection of open porch (LB)

12/02985/HOUSE Woodlands House Camden Park, Pantiles & St Marks
- Fence panel erected on wall (Retrospective) (CA)

12/03155/FUL Greggs 6 Grosvenor Road, Park
- Use of the pavement for external seating area (CA)

12/03161/FUL Lower Church Farm Speldhurst Hill, Speldhurst
- Retrospective: Mobile wooden stable (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 01 December 2012

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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Folkestone

SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

The Local Authorities' (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 place certain duties on local authorities in connection with publicising the recommendations made by their Independent Remuneration Panel.

i. The report of the Independent Remuneration Panel proposes a model for allowances that is transparent, sustainable, easy to understand and easy to operate. The model proposed would link all allowances to the basic councillors allowance (paid to all councillors) by a 'points' system.

ii. The recommended 'point' scores for different roles are based on the panel's consideration of the appropriate and justifiable relativities between those roles as they operate at Shepway District Council. The consolidated basic allowance referred to below has a point score of 100. The relative 'scores' may not be the same as in other Councils, but the panel is a Shepway panel looking at what is relevant and appropriate within Shepway.

iii. Based on this approach, the report proposes point scores for each of the special responsibility allowances, which will, if adopted, establish the relativities both between the different special responsibility allowances and between those allowances and the basic allowance.

The recommendations of the panel relate to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2012/13. They are as follows:

1. That the option for councillors to join the Local Government Pension Scheme not be introduced.
2. That Shepway District Council introduce a dependants' carers' allowance at the level of the national minimum wage.
3. That no changes be made to the current scheme for reimbursing travel and subsistence expenses.
4. That the scheme for travelling and subsistence related to official duties be adopted by the council.
5. That the voluntary discount be maintained at 50%.
6. That the current ICT allowance be consolidated into the basic allowance.
7. That the revised consolidated basic allowance be set at £4,500.
8. That the councillors basic allowances be adjusted annually at the start of the civic year by the Consumer Price Index figure for the proceeding February (published in March).
9. That the application of indexation to the councillors basic allowance be subject to an annual vote of full Council.
10. That special responsibility allowances be determined by reference to the basic allowance and amended in line with amendments to that basic allowance.
11. That the committees are classified into tiers and that special responsibility allowances be paid to the chairs of tier one and tier two committees only.
12. That the special responsibility allowance for the chair of a tier one committee be set at 100 points which equates to an allowance of £4,500.
13. That the special responsibility allowance for the chair of a tier two committee be set at 30 points and frozen at its current level until the effects of indexation brings the proposed allowance to the level of the current allowance which equates to an allowance of £1,350.
14. The payment of special responsibility allowances to vice-chairs of committees is discontinued.
15. The special responsibility allowance for the role of cabinet members is set at the level of 200 points which equates to an allowance of £9,000.
16. The special responsibility allowance for the role of Deputy Leader of the Council is set at the level of 220 points which equates to an allowance of £9,900.
17. The special responsibility allowance for Leader of the Council is set at 440 points which equates to an allowance of £19,800.
18. That the special responsibility allowance for Leader of the Council is frozen at its current level until such time as the proposed level matches the current level under indexation arrangements.
19. That up to a maximum of nine special responsibility allowances are paid to Lead Members set at a level of 30 points which equates to an allowance of £1,350.
20. That the current group allowances be abolished.
21. That a single special responsibility allowance for the role of 'Leader of the Opposition' (being defined as the leader of the largest minority group not forming part of the administration) be introduced at the level of 150 points which equates to an allowance of £6,750.
22. The special responsibility allowance for the role of Chair of the Council is set at 150 points which equates to an allowance of £6,750.
23. The special responsibility allowance for the role of Vice-Chair of the Council is set at 30 points which equates to an allowance of £1,350.
24. The SRA for Co-opted Members covered by the scheme of remuneration for Councillors be set at 15 points which equates to an allowance of £675.

The Council will meet in the new year to consider the recommendations of the panel and to decide whether to adopt the new scheme.

More information is available on the Shepway District Council website under Council and Democracy or for public inspection during normal working hours, between 9.00am and 5.00pm at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY; telephone 01303 853488 or email committee@shepway.gov.uk

Dated this 20th day of November 2012

J A Stewart
Chief Executive
Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone Kent

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY EB12, DOVER)
PUBLIC PATH CREATION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 21st November 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 26 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to provide a new length of Public Bridleway EB12 which commences at grid reference TR 3095 4405 (Point A), Melbourne Avenue, before heading in a south easterly direction for 866 metres, connecting with Roman Road at grid reference, TR 3165 4357 (Point B). The new length of path will have a width of 3 metres except at the junction with Roman Road (Point B) where the width is 1.5 metres

The existence of established trees at NGR TR 3165 4357 (Point B) on the Order plan will restrict the width of useable highway at that point to 1.5 metres. There will be 1 bridle gate located at NGR, TR 3095 4405 (Point A). The bridle gate will conform to BS 5709:2006.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 19th December 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 2nd December 2012, make an application to the High Court.

On 19th November 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of Public Bridleway numbered TE9 that commences from the unaffected part of Public Bridleway TE9, NGR TR2474 6661 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and passes for 342 metres in a south westerly direction to the unaffected part of Public Bridleway TE9, NGR TR2442 6649, (Point B) on the Order Plan, and to provide a new length of Public Bridleway numbered TE9 that commences from the unaffected part of Public Bridleway TE9, NGR TR2474 6661 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and passes in a south westerly direction for 132 metres then turning in a north, north westerly direction for 101 metres before finally turning again in a south westerly direction for 211 metres to the unaffected part of Public Bridleway TE9, NGR TR2442 6649, (Point B) on the Order Plan. The new length of path will have a width of 3 metres.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Thanet District Council, Thanet Gateway Plus, Cecil Street, Margate, CT9 1RE or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 17th December 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 2nd December 2012, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY TE9 (PART), ST NICHOLAS AT WADE)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 2nd December 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **St Augustines, 125 Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea**

Applicant: **Tony O'Malley**

Name of Premises: **Aberdeen House, 68 Ellington Road, Ramsgate**

Applicant: **Sharon Birch**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Archbishops Palace, Mill Street, Maidstone**

Applicant: **Sharon Birch**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Mansion House, 39 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells**

Applicant: **Sharon Birch**

Name of Premises: **Mercure Tunbridge Wells Hotel, 8 Tonbridge Road, Pembury**

Applicant: **Denise Vas**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Milton Place, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne**

Applicant: **Sharon Birch**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Wellington House, St Stephens Road, Canterbury**

Applicant: **Sharon Birch**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

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17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a firstcome, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by Archant KOS Media Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use Archant KOS Media Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by Archant KOS Media Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in Archant KOS Media Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within Archant KOS Media Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of Archant KOS Media Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via Archant KOS Media Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to Archant KOS Media Ltd shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of Archant Archant KOS Media Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by Archant KOS Media Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which Archant KOS Media Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by Archant KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify Archant KOS Media Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the Archant KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to Archant KOS Media Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. Archant KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.
Effective from June 2008

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

VARIOUS ROADS, BRABOURNE & SMEETH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Due to ongoing works for the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on certain roads in Brabourne and Smeeth, on or after 5 December 2012, as shown below.

GRANARY COURT ROAD, SMEETH will be closed from 5th December 2012 for up to 7 weeks, although re-opening over Christmas, between 21 December 2012 and 6 January 2013

The closure is between Plain Road and Pound Lane.

The alternative route is via Plain Road and Pound Lane.

POUND LANE, BRABOURNE will be closed from 6th December 2012 for up to 7 weeks, although re-opening between 21 December 2012 and 6 January 2013

The closure is between the junctions with Canterbury Road and Granary Court Road.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Plain Road and Pound Lane (Pound House Road).

PLAIN ROAD, SMEETH will be closed from 7th December from 4.00 pm until 10th December at 6.00 am

The closure is between the junctions with Cooper's Lane and Granary Court Road.

The alternative route is via Stone Hill, A20 Hythe Road, Church Road, Woolpack Hill and Plain Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

BROAD OAK LEVEL CROSSING, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance and repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broad Oak Level Crossing, Sturry, on various nights from 3 December 2012, as shown below.

Broad Oak Road, Sturry will be closed at Broad Oak Level Crossing, at the following times:

Monday 3 December 2012 at 23:30 hrs to Tuesday 4 December at 05:30 hrs

Tuesday 4 December at 23:30 hrs to Wednesday 5 December 12 at 05:30 hrs

Wednesday 5 December at 23:30 hrs to Thursday 6 December at 05:30 hrs

Thursday 6 December at 23:30 hrs to Friday 7 December at 05:30 hrs

Thursday 20 December at 23:50 hrs until Friday 21 December at 05:40 hrs.

The alternative route is via Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road, A28 Mill Road, A291 Sturry Hill, Sweechgate and Shalloak Road.

FENOULHET WAY, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway and footway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fenoulhet Way, Herne Bay, on or after 4 December 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Victoria Park, Canterbury Road and High Street.

There will be no waiting at any time on Fenoulhet Way during these works, which includes the designated parking spaces, which will be suspended.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WESTBROOK LANE, HERNE BAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENTCOUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1)to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effects:

1. Prohibition of Driving except for loading by HGV

Westbrook Lane, Herne Bay

From the junction with A2990 Thanet Way for a distance of 51m in a northerly direction.

2. Prohibition of Driving except for access to and from the household waste recycling centre in Westbrook Lane

Westbrook Lane, Herne Bay

Between points 51m and 96m north of the junction with A2990 Thanet Way

The Order was sealed on 23 November 2012 and will come into force on 1 January 2013

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at

Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford TN24 8AD, and at Canterbury City Council (Herne Bay Office) William Street, Herne Bay CT65NX.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESEND AREA

HAWKINS AVENUE/CHRISTIAN FIELDS AVENUE GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

HAWKINS AVENUE/CHRISTIAN FIELDS AVENUE GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

Because of resurfacing works Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hawkins Avenue/Christian Fields Avenue Gravesend, on or after 3rd December 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with junction of Hawkins Avenue and Christian Fields Avenue.

The alternative route is via Palmer Avenue and Warrior Avenue all routes are 20mph no height/width or weight restrictions apply .

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

COWDEN POUND LANE, EDENBRIDGE, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works for cabling, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cowden Pound Lane, Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, on or after 5th December 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Hartfield Road for a distance of 700 metres and there will be no access for through traffic.

The alternative route is via Hartfield Road, Station Road, Blowers Hill, Cow Lane, Cowden Pound Lane and Vice Versa.

SANDY LANE, SOUTHFLEET, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of allowing BT safe access for provision of new telegraph pole for new customer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandy Lane, Southfleet, Dartford, on or after 5th December 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Claywood Lane for a distance of 200 metres. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Betsham Road, Unamed Road, School Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS

AMENDMENT NO. 4 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to :-

1) Implement a 40 mile per hour speed limit along Wheatsheaf Hill (B2042) from its junction with Ide Hill Road to a point 470 metres northeast of its junction with Nightingale Lane. 2) Implement a 40 mile per hour speed limit on Ide Hill Road from its junction with Wheatsheaf Hill southwestwards for a distance of 60 metres.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Laura Squires, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 24/12/2012.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(WATERLOO ROAD, CRANBROOK) (PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES)

THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AS AMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ACT 1981 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 90 "A" to Section 90 "I" of the Highway Act 1980 as amended by Section 32 and Schedule 10 of the Transport Act 1991 and by paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 and of all other enabling powers, proposes to provide the traffic calming measures described in the schedule hereto. The roads affected and the locations of the proposed measures are described in the schedule.

A plan showing the locations of the proposed measures may be inspected during normal working hours at the offices of Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD.

Anyone wishing to support this proposal, or object to it, should write to Laura Squires, Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, Javelin Way, Henwood Ind Estate, Ashford TN24 8AD or by email to MHF@kent.gov.uk by not later than 24th December 2012.

SCHEDULE 1

Pair of Speed Cushions

(Speed Cushion Dimension 70mm in height, 1900mm in length and 1750mm in width)

1	Outside the School House, Waterloo Road
2	Outside the Danes, Waterloo Road
3	Outside Cornwallis House, Waterloo Road
4	Outside 1 Waterloo Place, Waterloo Road

SCHEDULE 2

Raised Table

(Raised Table Dimension 75mm in height, 18m in length and full width of carriageway)

1	Outside Cranbrook School, Waterloo Road

SCHEDULE 3

Build Out

1	Outside The Vicarage, Waterloo Road	To reduce the carriageway width to 4.5 m.

(VARIOUS ROADS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) NO.4 ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL intends to make the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984:

The effect of the proposed named Order (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines; SYL and loading restrictions means no waiting at the times prescribed below by single yellow lines).

No waiting at any time (DYL)

Banner Farm Road; northwest side, from its most northerly point to a point 153 metres north of its junction with Farmcombe Road INCLUDES TURNING HEAD

Banner Farm Road; south and east side, from its most northerly point to a point 160 metres north of its junction with Farmcombe Road INCLUDES TURNING HEAD

Cunningham Road; west side, from a point 12 metres north of its junction with the east-west spur of Cunningham Road to its most southerly point INCLUDES SCHOOL ENTRANCES

Cunningham Road; (east-west spur), both sides, from its junction with Cunningham Road to a point 15m west of that junction.

Cunningham Road; east side, From a point 14 metres north of its junction with Tedder Road to a point 15 metres south of that junction.

Tedder Road; both sides, from its junction with Cunningham Road to a point 15 metres east of that junction.

Exchange Mews; south west to north east section, both sides, from its junction with Culverden Park Road for its entire length

Exchange Mews; south east to north west spur, both sides, from its junction with the south west to north east section of Exchange Mews to a point 10m north west of that junction.

Major Yorks Road; south west, south side, from its junction with Langton Road to a point 10 metres south east of its junction with the eastern spur of Nevill Park.

Major Yorks Road; north east side, from its junction with Bishop's Down to a point 40 metres south east of that junction.

Major Yorks Road; south west side, from a point 119 metres north west of its junction with Hungershall Park to a point 149 metres north west of that junction.

Major Yorks Road; south west side, from a point 30 metres north west of its junction with Hungershall Park to a point 30 metres south east of that junction.

Major Yorks Road; north east side, from its junction with Eridge Road to a point 30 metres north west of its junction with Hungershall Park.

Major Yorks Road; south west side, from a point 230 metres north west of its junction with Eridge Road to a point 265 metres north west of that junction.

Major Yorks Road; south west side, from its junction with Eridge Road to a point 120m north west of that junction.

Henwood Green Road; west side, from a point 15 metres north of its northern junction with Romford Road to a point 25 metres south of that junction.

Henwood Green Road; east side, from a point 15 north of its northern junction with Romford Road to a point 20 metres south of its southern junction with Romford Road.

No waiting Monday to Saturday 8am - 6pm (SYL)

Culverden Park Road; north east, from a point 20m east of its junction with Culverden Park to a point 239 metres north and west of that junction

No waiting Monday to Friday 8am - 4pm (SYL)

Banner Farm Road; east side, from its junction with Farmcombe Road to a point 160 metres north of that junction.

No waiting Monday to Friday 10am - 11am (SYL)

Northern slip road between Church Road and London Road, Southborough; both sides, from its junction with Church Road to its junction with London Road.

Full details are contained in the proposed Order, any Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and at the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council offices, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS during normal office hours.

Anyone wishing to support or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 24th December 2012.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 2nd December 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

Buzzcocks: there's life in the old punks yet

SEE PAGE 49

SPECIAL BRAND

One of Britain's best-loved comics is still standing

SEE PAGE 50

Kent Weekend

Wicked ways

Janine Duvitski sets her sights on Snow White

SEE PAGE 45

PLUS: Talented youngsters take the heat in the kitchen - **food and drink p48** Campaign is aiming to put empty homes to good use - **property p53** Toyota goes for gold with new Auris - **driving p55**

READER OFFER Holidays

Call 01895 83 33 33 for bookings and information

Holidays offered by **GN Holidays**, Higher Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5EL • Open: 9am to 5.30pm weekdays; 9.30am to 12.30pm Saturdays • Email: info@gnholidays.com • www.gnholidays.com

Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival & Monaco

Escorted Rail Holiday from London & Ebbsfleet*

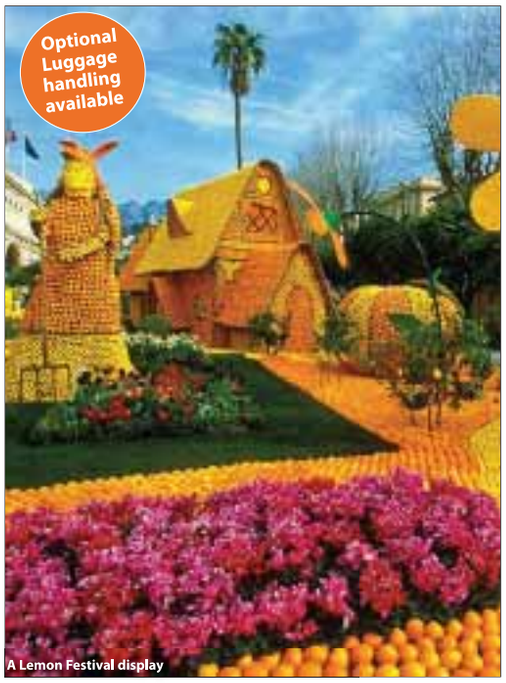
8 days, semi-all-inclusive

Quote LF2-KOS

From £849pp

21 February, 2013

This super holiday, taking in the French Riviera's premier Carnivals, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras' famous Champagne Bar before an escorted afternoon departure by Eurostar (from Ebbsfleet on request). On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night, visits to Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival, Monaco & Cervo. We stay in Diano Marina, situated on Italy's Riviera of Flowers.



A Lemon Festival display

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras (*from Ebbsfleet on request) - afternoon departure • Overnight hotel B&B in Paris outbound • 6 nights half board in Diano Marina, including free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night • All excursions • All transfers abroad

RAIL OPTION: Luggage handling - £29pp

Isle of Wight Come Dancing Party

For over 40s only

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar

Was ~~£259~~pp

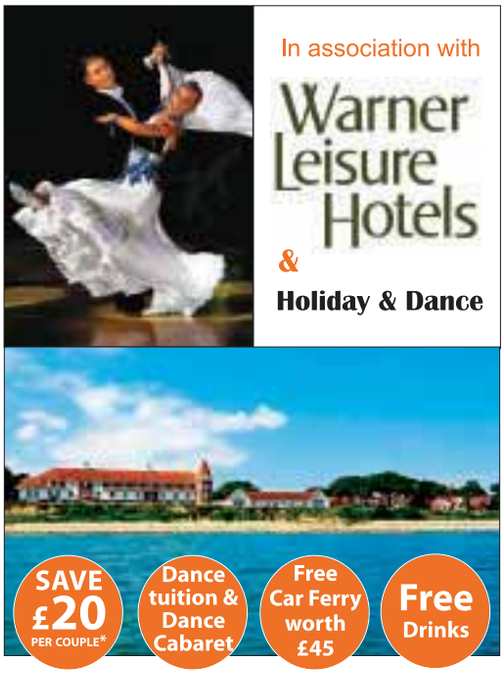
Sale Price £249pp

Quote BX1-KOS

Friday 11 January, 2013

Fans of Strictly Come Dancing and dance enthusiasts are in for a treat at our exclusive break on the Isle of Wight.

We are taking over Warner's Bembridge Coast hotel with a tailor made weekend featuring dance tuition, dance cabaret, social dancing, a Gala Ball and much more. With a huge 8,860 sq ft dance floor and reserved tables and seating exclusively for a maximum of 200 dance guests, comfort and space are guaranteed. Tuition – up to 8 hours - is courtesy of Philip Wylie of Ballroom & Latin Dance specialists Holiday & Dance. Cabaret comes from six times British National Amateur & Reigning Professional Champions Warren & Kristi Boyce, plus British National Juvenile Champions Glenn Richard Boyce & Kayleigh Andrews.



Add to this a packed entertainment programme in the show lounge, great food in the refurbished restaurant, Free drinks from 6 to 11pm every night, and Free car ferry worth £45 per car and you're assured of a strictly perfect weekend.

INCLUDED:
- Dance tuition, entertainment & activities as described
- Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- 3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation – upgrades available
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Car ferry crossing worth £45

Carry on New Year 99p Bar Parties at Bosworth Hall Hotel

Market Bosworth, Leics

Self-Drive, 2 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks

Was ~~£109~~pp

Now £89pp

Quote BH1/2-KOS

4, 11, 18, 25 Jan & 8 Feb, 2013

Extend your New Year Celebrations with a fantastic value break at popular Bosworth Hall. Our Carry on New Year Party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. Enjoy 99p drinks from 6pm to 11pm and entertainment nightly at Bosworth Hall Hotel, located in the village of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. All the bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, trouser press and tea & coffee tray. Leisure facilities include an indoor pool & gym (£4 per day payable at the hotel).

INCLUDED:
- 99p drinks from 6pm to 11 pm nightly - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers
- 2 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en-suite hotel room
- 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners
- Entertainment

Swinging 60s Seaside Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Self-Drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks

£99pp

Quote PR3-KOS

Friday 8 March, 2013

We're taking over Pontins Pakefield for the weekend to take you on a trip down memory lane with great variety entertainment including a 60s tribute act and a host of nostalgic fun from quizzes to films.

Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontin's famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts — PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks.

INCLUDED:
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Mamma Mia Summer Seaside Party

Pontions Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Self-Drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks

£119pp

Quote MM6-KOS

Friday 28 June, 2013

We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips - a fabulous private party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontin's famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts — PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks.

INCLUDED:
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

THE INTERVIEW

Janine Duvitski

TV star given chance to show her wicked ways

Having not performed in pantomime since 1966, the comedy actress jumped at the chance to release her inner demon, as **Joe Bill** learns

TO SOME she is known as the crossword-loving swinger in ITV1's Benidorm and to others she is the mild-mannered neighbour in BBC's sitcom One Foot In The Grave, but this winter Janine Duvitski will become something far more sinister.

The actress, who is recognisable from her role as Jaqueline Stewart in the award-winning ITV sitcom set in southern Spain, will take the lead in the Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall Theatre pantomime.

The newly-appointed Wicked Queen has admitted that the Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs production will be her first foray in pantos for quite a while.

"I haven't done panto since 1966. It was in Manchester and it was Babes In The Wood, and I played one of the babes. The Royal Shakespeare Company did a Christmas panto in 1980, which we performed for The Queen at The Barbican in London. But that's about it.

"I quite fancied doing it again. I can't say just for the money, can I? I just really like the time of year and it feels quite Christmassy doing a panto, so I've quite fancied doing one for a few years.

"I seem to do mostly television nowadays and I don't ever want to leave it too long between doing theatre, so I thought this would be a good opportunity."

The 59-year-old performer is looking forward to two things from the production: spending a little time in Kent and bringing out her evil side.

"I have been down here a few times before, but Tunbridge Wells looks gorgeous. I can't wait to do my Christmas shopping there. I can't wait to get to know it [the town].

"Playing the Wicked Queen made the part all the more attractive. It's always more fun to be the baddie. It's harder to be nice and beautiful – the Wicked Queen has got this wonderful madness about her.

"I've got four children of my own and two stepchildren, but I've always got on really well with them.

"So this is my chance to let out my wicked stepmother. I'm sure I'll be able to dredge some evil up within me."

Duvitski was born in Lancashire to a Polish father, hence her surname, before relocating to London aged 15 to join the East 15 Acting School.

Her theatre credits are vast and include a stint with the Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as countless appearances in top shows both in the West End and around the UK.

Her small-screen debut came in 1972, in popular BBC detective show Z Cars, before she went on to star in Vanity Fair, Midsomer Murders, The Worst Week Of My Life, Foyle's War and Trial And Retribution.

ROLE PLAY: Duvitski is excited by playing the Wicked Queen in this year's Tunbridge Wells pantomime

Duvitski's film credits are pretty impressive, as well, with roles in The Madness Of King George, About A Boy with Hugh Grant and even Dracula in 1979, alongside the legendary Sir Laurence Olivier and Donald Pleasence.

But it is her parts in sitcoms that have made her a household British face.

There was Waiting For God in the early 90s as the prudish care-home assistant Jane Edwards, before she went on to play Pippa Trench, Victor Meldrew's innocent neighbour, in One Foot In The Grave for seven years.

It is her current role as the ditsy but ultimately loveable Jaqueline Stewart in the Bafta-nominated Benidorm that has really got people talking.

Duvitski, along with her onscreen husband, are the resident swingers at the Solana Hotel, and as you can imagine this leads to some embarrassing situations.

But, as she divulged, Benidorm the place was as much an eye-opener as some of the scenes in which she has to act.

"There's something about it. When I first went there, I thought 'Oh my god, what am I doing in this place?' because it was so full-on."

The sixth series starts filming in March next year after the writers decided against a 2012 offering.

"There are really good things about Benidorm – the climate is unbelievable," said Duvitski. "I really missed the sun this year just staying in England. The beaches are amazing and there are wonderful Spanish places to eat.

"The cast live just outside Benidorm because it's a bit tricky if you live in the centre – when the cast walk down the street, it gets a bit hectic.

"Of course, there are the bits that everybody associates with the show.

"We quite often go into work very early in the morning and people are still coming home from the pubs and clubs very drunk.

"It's a mad place, but you can have a good time there. People can have a good holiday and you don't have to be well off to have a great time there. It's quite a happy place.

"We sort of hide away most of the time, but we have the odd mad night and go into central Benidorm and get on the karaoke."

But as for taking after her compatriots and setting up Janine's Bar in central Benidorm once she retires from acting, Duvitiski is (fairly) unequivocal.

"I certainly am not. I don't think so anyway... although I wouldn't mind having a place in Spain because there are all the bits I like. But actually running a bar – no way!"

More jobs are on the way for the busy performer, with a new children's series for the BBC, as well as a drama set in Bulgaria, where she will play a blind woman. But first up is Tunbridge Wells and the Wicked Queen.

Alongside Janine at this year's Assembly Hall Theatre panto will be CBBC star Chris Pizzey, EastEnders market inspector Nick Wilton and CITV's Jenny Jones.

■ **Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs runs from Friday, December 12, to Sunday, January 13, at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells.**
Tickets are available by phoning 01892 530613 or alternatively going online at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

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Red Lion offers good food and festive fun for party season

Why here...
On the village green opposite the church, the black-beamed, white-walled Red Lion could well be the perfect English-postcard image.
Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, the warm, cosy atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night.
With the tradtional log-fires, live entertainment and quality home-cooked food, this free house has something for everyone. A children's play area in the garden and a sunny front patio make the pub a desirable location for families, parties or romance.
There is a selection of real ales, wines and beers as well as a good choice of meals on the à la carte menu. The specials change with the seasons and the team has launched its Taste of Kent menu, serving dishes and ingredients sourced within a couple of miles of the pub.
Food is served daily Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and 6pm-9pm. On Sunday it is served from midday to 8pm. Christmas-party-booking is available.
New Year's Eve will feature live music as well as a DJ and is open from 7pm to late, with free entry.

On the menu...
Example: Smoked duck and orange salad; bronze turkey served with potatoes roasted in dripping or tender pork belly stuffed with the Red Lion stuffing topped with a cider-and-grated-apple sauce and roast potatoes; Christmas pudding covered with brandy butter.

How to book...
The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, web www.theredlion.org)

Eat, drink, be merry and stay over at beautiful Elvey Farm

Why here...
Set deep in the Kent countryside, the boutique hotel and restaurant of Elvey Farm makes a statement... you instantly realise that this is somewhere special.
Tucked away on a medieval farmstead, Elvey is made up of a cluster of buildings centred on a beautiful 16th-century barn overlooking sunny hills in the summer months, but it really comes into its own during the winter – and especially in the run-up to Christmas.
The log-fire crackles away in the bar, the restaurant is decked out in traditional Christmas garb, the frost glistens in the surrounding fields and the smells from the kitchen are too tempting for words.
The team prides itself on attention to detail and this restaurant in the heart of Darling Buds Of May country will have you reminiscing over those classic holiday seasons with their hot, wholesome food and stylish decorations.
The majority of ingredients used in Elvey's orginal dishes are sourced locally, home-made from scratch and hearty.
Why not stay and make a night of it?

On the menu...
Elvey Farm is the perfect place to host a Christmas party. Lunches are just £15 for three courses, and the evening party menu is £28. Rooms for £85 in December. Open for lunch from Wednesday to Sunday and every evening. To see the full menus, visit the website.

How to book...
Elvey Farm, Elvey Lane, Pluckley TN27 0SU (phone 01233 840442, website www.elveyfarm.co.uk)

It's going to be a real cracker with delicious Waggon menu

Why here...
The Waggon at Hale is a well-run family pub with good food, good wines and beers and a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere.
There is always plenty going on at the Waggon, with themed nights, quizzes, charity events and live music. Families are welcome and in fact in the pub's big family-friendly garden there is even a mini family farm featuring chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits and the star of the show, Crackling the miniature pig.
Proprietor Emma Pearson said: "We do not try to be anything more than what we already are – a warm and friendly country pub serving real food and drink, selected, prepared and served to you by our friendly team."
Until Sunday, December 23, the Waggon will be offering its pre-Christmas menu priced at £22.95 per person. That price includes a starter, a main course and a dessert from an excellent range including traditional Christmas pudding, chocolate brownies, tasty French apple tart or, for the ultra-sweet-lovers out there, the raspberry-and-white chocolate cheesecake brûlée.

On the menu...
Choose a starter from the tomato-and-basil soup, the deep-fried Brie, the duck-and-orange pâté or prawn-and-crayfish salad. For mains, there is traditional roast turkey, roast topside of Scottish beef, mushroom-and-chestnut-stuffed plaice or stuffed red peppers.

How to book...
The Waggon, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP (phone 01634 400800, web www.waggonathale.co.uk)

A wonderful setting with a menu to match at Christmas

Why here...
The Waterside Bistro is one of Kent's newest eateries, located in the flagship building of the new Victory Pier development on Gillingham waterfront.Based at Prospect Place in Blake Avenue, the bistro is modern, light and airy with facilities that include a dining area, coffee lounge, TV, free wi-fi internet and free parking.
It serves fresh traditional English food, including breakfasts, Sunday roasts, home-made soups, tasty hot meals, cakes, sandwiches and afternoon teas.
The coffee lounge has a full range of freshly-ground Italian-style coffees, including espressos, lattés and cappuccinos. Under owners Shane and Georgette Jarvis, the bistro provides a warm and welcoming family atmosphere and is an ideal place for functions, parties, special occasions and small office conferences.
Waterside also offers its meals and drinks for customers to take away, so you could buy a freshly-cooked takeaway English meal for the whole family.
On Fridays the bistro serves a fabulous traditional fish-and-chips dinner.

On the menu...
The bistro will be providing seasonal fare in the run-up to Christmas and is an ideal setting for small office groups to come and celebrate. Prices are £18 for two courses and £22 for three courses. The bistro will even be open on Christmas Day and is taking bookings now.

How to book...
Waterside Bistro, Prospect Place, Blake Avenue, Gillingham (phone 01634 786721, web www.watersidefood.co.uk)

kind of evening that you'll remember for life. But where to go? No worries – here's the best spots in the county!

The perfect Yuletide feasts where west meets east

Why here...
This Christmas, why not head down to the Oriental Buffet in Tonbridge?
The popular high street venue is perfect for large or small parties and offers customers the chance to feast on all their favourite cuisines.
With more than 50 items from which to choose and five styles of cuisine, including Indian, Chinese, Thai and Nepalese, there is something for everyone, with 'quality without compromise' being the the key to the team's succes.
Still taking bookings for Christmas parties! Book now to avoid disappointment! Phone 01732 361666 to book an Oriental Buffet table now.

For something extra-special and very different during the Christmas period, give the Gurkha Palace in Folkestone a try this festive season.
Try an authentic taste and dishes of Nepal with regional cuisines. The food of this beautiful country is as diverse as the landscape, so it's no surprise to learn that Gurkha Palace's menu is vast.
The excellent food has seen the eatery nominated as best Nepalese restaurant in the country by the Good Food Guide.

On the menu...
If you're thinking of making your Christmas party a little bit special this year, Gurkha Palace is the perfect venue where east meets west.
Example dish: Try the tandoori kukhura – whole chicken marinated with western Nepal frontier spices cooked in a tandoor.

How to book...
Gurkha Palace, 97 Enbrook Valley (Golden Valley shopping centre), Folkestone (phone 01303 257700)

Spice up your holiday season at the always-popular Badsha

Why here...
The Badsha restaurant at Tenterden is well known for serving authentic Bangladeshi and Indian cuisine.
The West Cross establishment was first opened in 1986 and has been a first-class and very popular eatery ever since.
The friendly family team creates a welcoming atmosphere for all guests, whether it be a family meal and celebration or just a romantic night out.
The team has even served up dishes for a number of celebrities who regularly eat at the Tenterden restaurant.
This winter is a great time to try a night at Badsha as it has recently launched a new menu that includes a foray into fish, duck and beef dishes alongside the traditional favourites.
Badsha specialises in tandoori dishes, cooking and preparing meals in a special clay tandoori oven. Some of the most popular dishes include chicken bemisal with its smooth and spicy tikka and spicy fresh onions and lamb elahi with onion, ginger and garlic as well as capsicum and coriander.
Ring the restaurant to book a table over the festive season.

On the menu...
Example menu: Start with a duck malai tikka with boneless duck with ginger garlic and yoghurt barbecued in the tandoori oven.
For mains, try a murgh amm, which features marinated chicken cooked with mango pulp served with a mild creamy sauce.

How to book...
Badsha, 10 West Cross, Tenterden TN30 6JL (phone 01580 765151 or 01580 765143)

Doing it their own way at Filippo's Italian restaurant

Why here...
Welcome to the new Filippo's My Way Italian restaurant in Tunbridge Wells!
Filippo returns to form at his new Calverley Road establishment, having been known for many years for his quality Italian cooking at the Bell'Italia in the town.
He said: "Hello everyone! We would like to inform both our old and new friends and customers that after a long rest Filippo is back in town. You will remember us from the old restaurant where we had a special atmosphere and had some great evenings together.
"We are back now and once again providing brilliant new Italian recipes just for you."

With their Italian décor and classic dishes, the My Way restaurant is sure to bring back the fans that loved Bell'Italia so much.
Try the daily specials cooked fresh on the premises, or give the lunchtime set menu a try for something a little different.
Get your hands on Italian breads, pastas, meats and wines, with the friendly team of staff making sure customers' every need is fulfilled.
Arrivederci and buon appetito!

On the menu...
The My Way Italian has put together superb pre-Christmas and New Year's Eve set menus. Call the restaurant for more information on the dishes available on the set list and to book a table during the festive season.

How to book...
Filippo's My Way Italian Restaurant,
98 Calverley Road,
Tunbridge Wells TN21 2UN
(phone 01892 522033)

Boogie at Banks at Christmas or just enjoy a very good meal

Why here...
Banks is the longest-standing independent restaurant in Maidstone. The venue offers the best of both worlds – a contemporary bar with the feel and atmosphere of a country pub in the middle of town.
Food is served Monday to Saturday, from 10.30am to 4pm, with a selection of freshly-prepared traditional meals and snacks, as well as an ever-changing list of specials that the chefs love to create. There also regular fresh-fish dishes on the menu from Thursday to Saturday. At the weekend, Banks is transformed into a lively, quirky and exciting bar, with two main areas and completed by a cocktail bar.

The group is renowned in Maidstone for putting on amazing events in the huge beer garden, including a selection of house DJs from Carl Cox to Jamie Jones.
The Banks team is a close-knit, small group that prides itself on maintaining the outstanding reputation it has worked so hard for over the years.
On top of these events, which target a younger market, Banks is home of the Warehouse Reunion, the hit 80s club that gives older customers the chance to dance away.

On the menu...
Christmas menu example: Start with oven-baked spanish tomato stuffed with mozzarella, basil and red onion, drizzled with home-made pesto, followed by slow-cooked lamb shank served on a bed of colcannon, with a cranberry and rosemary gravy.

How to book...
Banks Bar, 76 Bank Street, Maidstone ME14 1SJ (phone 01622 676799, website www.banksbar.co.uk)

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Talented pair prove they can cut it at young chef awards

TWO youngsters have burst on to the county's culinary scene after triumphing at the latest Kent Young Chef Award.

After seeing off 100 other competitors, as well as conquering a nail-biting live final, the senior and junior section winners were congratulated by Michelin star chef Richard Phillips.

Benjamin Colley, 12, from Hawkhurst, who goes to school at The Skinners' School in Tunbridge Wells, clinched the junior title with his outstanding fallow deer wellington.

Eden Allsworth, 14, of Canterbury, who goes to school at Highsted Grammar School, Sittingbourne, won the senior award with her beautiful duo of pan-roasted belly of pork and line-caught sea bass with apple wood-smoked mash and medley of autumn vegetables.

The pair took on eight other entrants in the two-hour final held at K College in Tonbridge, hosted by a panel of expert judges that included celebrity chef and Kent restaurateur Richard Phillips; Tony Blake, commercial manager at kff; Ian Piper, deputy head of faculty at K College; and Tony O'Brien, head of food operations at London Business School.

Thackeray's owner Phillips said: "It might sound a bit of a cliché, but the bar has been raised yet again this year. The levels of flavours and presentation achieved were outstanding and there were dishes here that the general public would have been happy to pay good money for, such was their professionalism."

TRIUMPHANT: Richard Phillips with the young chef winners Eden Allsworth and Benjamin Colley

The competition featured students from 23 of the county's schools, all eager to prove their culinary genius.

Benjamin said: "I'm over the moon – I can't believe how good this feels. To find out I'd made the final was incredible, and now to have won the junior title means so much to me, especially as I hope to go into the restaurant trade one day.

"Entering a competition like this is so worthwhile – you get so much out of it and I'd encourage everyone to have a go next year."

The pressure was really on for the youngsters, who were displayed on a big screen in the college's View Restaurant in front of the deputy mayor and mayoress of Tonbridge and Malling; Mark Dance, Kent County Council's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development; and some 45 supporters from the eight schools represented in the final.

Senior winner Eden was equally ecstatic about her win.

She said: "I'm completely overwhelmed – it's just incredible. Just taking part in the final is an amazing experience and then to be picked as the winner is indescribable. I have a passion for cooking and this is a wonderful step to working in a professional kitchen one day."

As well as the winners' trophies, hampers and certificates, all the finalists will have fantastic mini chef experience and lunch at one of Richard Phillips's restaurants.

The two winners will devise the menu for the Kent Young Chef Award charity dinner in aid of The Heart Of Kent hospice on Thursday, January 24, 2013, at The Windmill by Richard Phillips in Hollingbourne.

Drop of your favourite tipple will help a hero

THE makers of a well-known whisky company are launching a limited-edition bottle in a bid to raise money for Armed Services charity Help for Heroes.

Bell's Whisky is on a mission to raise £1 million for the organisation, which provides direct, practical support to wounded, injured and sick Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families.

The new bottle features the evocative Help for Heroes logo and will be sold nationwide.

As with all bottles of Bell's, it also proudly displays the Gaelic battle cry 'Afore Ye Go', marking an affinity the Bell's family has had with the military since the First World War.

A series of fund-raising activities will take place throughout the year to help meet the £1m target.

Bryn Parry OBE, co-founder and chief executive of the charity, said: "Help for Heroes is all about 'doing your bit' and Bell's pledge to support us by launching this limited-edition bottle will raise much-needed funds to provide support for our 'blokes', the men and women injured in the service of our country."

H4H has already funded a variety of projects, including the £8.5m rehabilitation complex at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre in Surrey, as well as a £3.5m treatment centre for combat stress.

The charity is committed to funding the operating costs at all the H4H centres for 20 years.

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No festive feuding!
A Christmas for kings

Dover Castle Experience
Weekends throughout December
0870 333 1183
www.english-heritage.org.uk/dovercastle

KING Henry II and his power-hungry son Prince Richard will put aside their usual family rivalries and settle down for a snug medieval midwinter at Dover Castle this Christmas.

Aided by the troubadour, families will meet castle characters before attending the court to be entertained with 12th-century songs, games and stories of the feuding Plantagenet family.

Visitors can also explore the Secret WartimeTunnels, now featuring the Operation Dynamo: Rescue From Dunkirk experience.

Events run every December weekend, with the castle open from 10am-4pm. Normal admission prices apply: £16.50 for adults, £9.90 for children.

Party with the punk princes
Buzzcocks

The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford
Friday, December 14
01322 291100

LEGENDARY English punk band the Buzzcocks are the latest big name to play The Mick Jagger Centre.

The group were formed in Bolton in 1976 by vocalist Pete Shelley and guitarist Steve Diggle, both of whom still play with the band today, and, alongside the Sex Pistols, soon became one of the founding movers of the punk scene.

The group had hits with songs like What Do I Get?, Orgasm Addict, Ever Fallen In Love and Breakdown. They continue to enjoy success and a big following on the summer festival scene across Europe.

The Buzzcocks will be supported by The Dead Formats, with tickets costing £19 and available from www.themickjaggercentre.com.

The stand-up who sells out
Imran Yusef

The Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Sunday, December 2, at 7.30pm
01227 769075
www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

TOP stand-up comedian Imran Yusuf returns to The Gulbenkian with his new show Bring The Thunder.

Following sell-out success of the comedian's first two Edinburgh shows, Yusuf bagged a Comedy Award Best Newcomer nomination and his popularity flourished.

Bring The Thunder is a show about pursuing your dreams and ambitions with unrelenting enthusiasm and perseverance.

Failing that, Yusuf is likely to be fast and furious with a technique of bringing seemingly light-hearted satire to mask topical commentary.

This is surely one for future stadium tours! Tickets cost £12 and the show is suitable for ages 16 and over.

Tickets are available online.

A new carol?
Dickens tale transformed

Theatre Royal Margate
Wed to Sat, December 5-7
01843 292795
wwwtheatreroyalmargate.com

SCROOGE heads to the seaside this winter as A Christmas Carol finds the stage at Theatre Royal Margate.

This original musical version of the classic Charles Dickens tale is performed by by Talkwood Productions.

As most people will know, Ebeneezer Scrooge is a thoroughly disagreeable and mean man who prefers money to people.

However, he is taken on a journey of discovery by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future – it transforms him.

Included among the characters to show him the error of his ways are Bob Cratchitt and Tiny Tim.

Tickets cost £14 or £12 for concessions, and £46 for a family of four.

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Classic yarns
Dickens feast and ghost trail

Historic Dockyard, Chatham
December 8, 13 and 19
01634 823846
commissionershouse.com

THE beautiful and historic Commissioner's House at Chatham's Historic Dockyard is the setting for a dinner date with Charles Dickens.

Join in one of these evenings for a festive dining experience with a three-course meal alongside Dickensian characters re-telling some of the novelist's works – and don't forget to get into Victorian costume yourself!

After dinner, there is an optional mini ghost trail around the old house, but beware – ghosts have been seen!

The event runs from 7pm until late, with tickets priced at £30 per person.

Tickets are now on sale for the dockyard's Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday, December 12.

All in the jazz
The Beaujoais quartet vibe

Tower Theatre, Folkestone
Thursday, December 6
01303 277175
Tickets £10

THE best in European jazz is heading to the Tower Theatre as "the number one vibes player", Roger Beaujoais, plays the Folkestone Jazz Club.

Returning to the club with his his quartet, the performer is sure to set the night alight as he did with his prevous performance at the venue, which was described as "an evening of sheer enjoyment".

Jazz Journal writer Alan Luff rated the gig very highly and included a top mention for quartet pianist Robin Aspland, who is fast becoming a master of the keys and one of the most in-demand pianists in the UK.

The rest of the group is made up of powerhouse bassist Simon Thorpe and vibrant drummer Winston Clifford.

The music starts at 8.30pm and tickets are priced at £10.

Bouncing baby bison
New pair join the herd

Port Lympne, near Hythe
Winter opening: 9.30am-5pm
0844 842 4647
www.aspinallfoundation.org/portlympne

HOOFSTOCK keepers at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park have welcomed two baby bison to the herd. Born within days of each other, the male pair take the number of European bison to an impressive 13.

The European bison was once widespread across Europe and northern Asia, but by 1900 hunters had driven them to near-extinction.

Some, though, survived in zoos and, thanks to a captive breeding programme, there are more than 3,000 alive today.

Section leader Bob Savill said: "It's incredible to think that the species was teetering on the brink of extinction – every birth is very welcome."

Jo Brand
She's back standing up

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, December 12
01892 678 678

LONG established as one of the UK's best female comics, Jo Brand returns to her stand-up roots this winter trying out new material.

In her break from stand-up, Brand has written and starred in the BBC's BAFTA-award-winning series Getting On, set on a hospital's geriatric ward and partly inspired by her earlier career in nursing.

Other television credits include Jo Brand's Hot Potatoes (BBC1) and the award-winning Through The Cakehole on Channel 4.

Trinity Theatre is fast becoming a hot-spot for top comedic talent to try out new gags, with Phill Jupitus, Lee Evans and Alexei Sayle all airing new material there.

Tickets are priced at £12.

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He's electric... musician swaps the charts for something more current

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A FORMER musician from Whitstable has gone from standing in the spotlight to putting them up in people's homes.

Chris Butterworth has worked alongside the likes of Tom Jones and Herbie Hancock, not to mention penning a famous song that hit the pop charts in 1998.

The 41-year-old father of two, who lives in the seaside town, has since given up his life in the music industry to become an electrician, starting his own company, Wired Electrics.

A far cry from the days that he spent as the brains behind the band Trubble, bagging a UK top-25 hit with Dancing Baby – the famous (or infamous) 3D graphic that starred in the video went on to feature in 90s TV show Ally McBeal.

"It was a cheesy one-off," he said. "It was so naff, but it did do well in the charts both here in England and around the world. It also reached the dizzy heights of being played in the Queen Vic in EastEnders for two episodes in a row."

The novelty record he recorded with singer Shalisa even knocked Madonna off the Japanese international music chart.

After working in a recording studio in north London, where he met Tom Jones, Chris went on to form a band, Big Hair, which toured Europe.

"We played many festivals, including Glastonbury, and have played every year at Canterbury festival Lounge On The Farm.

LIVEWIRE: Chris Butterworth has swapped the dancing baby for a more grounded career

"It was great fun but not always well paid."

Arguably the height of his career in sound came when he was asked to write music for the Hollywood film The Guru starring Jimi Mistry, but work became harder to come by and Chris decided it was time for a change.

"Sometimes we would work days on something, pitching to an advertising company and then not get anything out of it," he said.

"It came to the point where I wanted to go and do a day's work and come home with a day's money and make it very simple. That led down the line to getting a trade."

Almost five years ago, Chris retrained as an electrician before starting his own business: "My interest in being an electrician definitely linked back to when I was a sound engineer.

"It was messing around with cables, getting things to work. In the studio you had to have a bit of electrical knowledge and know-how. I always had that interest in making things work."

And just as he used to spark on stage, the former musician was up for the task of working with real livewires.

"There's always something that comes up that you haven't seen before and that will always keep you on your toes. Technology is also constantly changing. It's really interesting. Being face to face with customers is also something I really enjoy about my new career.

"You do your work, do a good job, get paid and get more work because of it. In music you can do the best music in the world for an advertising company and they won't take it because they want to use something that the director's mate did. For political reasons your work doesn't get out there. It's all out of your hands."

Chris's work has taken him all over the country, to the Seychelles installing garden lighting and to the pads of the stars, having installed garden lighting for the likes of TV presenter Sarah Beeny and designer Cath Kidston as well as for comedian Harry Hill.

"I could have still been faffing about doing music and maybe something would have happened. Maybe I could have got a big advert and be a millionaire, but I doubt it."

Students focus on Dr Martens

ICONIC footwear brand Dr Martens asked students at the University for the Creative Arts at Rochester to photograph its latest collection.

First-year fashion-promotion students were entrusted with the Dr Martens autumn/winter collection and given the brief to find the most original, outrageous or unique ways to wear a British classic.

The best images were uploaded for the world to see via the Dr Martens Facebook page and there will be an exhibition of the students' work in UCA Rochester's Zandra Rhodes Gallery from January 2013.

UCA fashion lecturer Johannes Reponen said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our first-year students to test their skills in styling and teamwork in a live industry project with a major British brand. Not many fashion courses can boast that experience in their first semester."

Students had to source their own models, formulate styling concepts and then execute them on location and in the studio.

Dr Martens provided the students with a selection of men's and women's boots, as well as a range of clothing.

Students got just 15 minutes in the studio and 15 minutes on-location to create bold and exciting ways to wear the boots.

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(T&C's below)

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

MARY 61, lot to give, likes country/western, animals, gardening, dancing, seeking someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399269**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

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SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, night's in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non-drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

47YR old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**

TERRI young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, 70's, many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390671**

TRACEY 46, 5ft 8ins, long hair, fit, slim, seeks honest, reliable, attractive, tall, slim guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335375**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, N/S, likes a drink, good food, easy-going, GSOH, seeks loving male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393143**

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

JANET happy go lucky, young 60, likes meals out, music, animals, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391071**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315**

BIG blonde and beautiful 43tyr old, GSOH, seeks genuine, honest, loyal, caring male, 40-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390215**

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951**

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497**

WANNABEE stay at home home maker, educated, well built, loving, 54, seeks sincere, loving gent, 58-68 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391328**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370**

SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279**

CLARE 5ft 5ins, looking for soul mate, older man, 45-50's with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389133**

FEMALE 42, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001**

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989**

ANNA 62, seeks guy, 59-65 with an interest in the simple things in life for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346707**

WENDY darling, young OAP, seeks Peter Pan to find Neverland, must be N/S, like dogs, have GSOH and be young at heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395441**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**

IVY May tall, slim, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505**

CANDY 42, blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, bubbly, seeks older male, 75 plus, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391012**

PAULINE 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358**

SUE 58, likes walks, meals out, socialising, seeks large male, 6ft plus for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389135**

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385835**

BLACK female, 33, single mum, loving, honest, caring, kind, seeks professional, kind, honest male, 34-44. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387565**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

BERYL retired nurse, Medway area, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635**

LISA N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595**

PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

ANNA 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589**

FEMALE likes cooking, travel seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386712**

ANITA 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745**

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613**

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BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147**

PAUL 51, blond, blue eyes, fed up, likes walks, nights in/out seeks lady, 50-60 for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991**

PHIL young 63, GSOH, 6ft, medium build, easy going, seeking female, all woman for lots of love and attention. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399149**

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easy going, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, dark hair, seeking romantic, caring lady for meals out, nights in, cuddles and true love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399451**

ADRIAN young 59, likes travel, sports, seeks fun, attractive lady 40-50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399355**

20YR old male, looking for female, 45-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393676**

YOUNG toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419**

74YR old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398247**

RICHARD 60, 5ft 11ins, medium build, N/S, driver, looking for female for meals out, places of interest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393508**

THANET male, smart, young 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398661**

ROGER 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243**

DAN 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425**

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**

MALE 67, 14st, tall, educated, happy go lucky, seeks nice female, 50-65 for companionship. Folkestone/Deal area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398743**

RICHARD seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883**

WIDOWER 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875**

MARTYN 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863**

PAUL 63, white, N/S, GSOH, varied interests, considerate, reliable, caring, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 47-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398971**

GHOST researcher 65, slim, dark hair, WLTM amiable, slim female companion in Canterbury/Folkestone area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398937**

PHIL 63, 6ft, WLTM tallish woman to love and share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395975**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, theatre, travel, countryside, walks, meals out, seeks female, 37-69 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398767**

HANDSOME tall guy 40's, slim, smart, climber, skier, holidayed, happy disposition, seeks slim, petite lady for great relationship/times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271**

PROFESSIONAL male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398115**

ALAN 72, WLTM someone nice, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393719**

63YR old male, seeks similar aged female for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393224**

6FT male, 58, slim, light hearted, likes clubbing, would expect to add a dimension to our relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397821**

SLIM retired gent, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397723**

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MALE 56, medium build, 5ft 8ins, likes wrestling, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399499**

DAVID 65, retired, 5ft 9ins, grey hair, 14st, likes CD, seeking male, 45-75 dominant for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397813**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 311892**

BI CD looking to meet similar CD/TV for daytime meets 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393017**

ANDY 53, CD, seeking daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391870**

MARK bi-curious, seeks older couple, 45 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392889**

BI guy 44, looking for broadminded bi guy 45 plus for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395165**

Friendship

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

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Awards success for property-developer

MAIDSTONE developer Hillreed Homes, now part of the Persimmon Group, scooped two prestigious awards at the annual What House? Awards held at The Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane, London.

The bronze awards were for Best Medium House Builder and Best Development – given for the project at Green Way, Kings Hill.

The What House? Awards, now in their 31st year, are the most prestigious and longest-established new-homes awards, recognising the skills of house-builders and developers across the country.

"This is fabulous news for Hillreed Homes and Persimmon," said Jo Richards, marketing and corporate manager at Hillreed Homes.

"We have received many industry accolades over the years which are testament to the company's dedication to the quality of build.

"Equally important is the benefit it gives to our buyers, who know they can feel safe in their choice of property investment.

"To win two major awards underpins what a good decision it was to purchase Hillreed Homes and retain the Hillreed brand as it is so well recognised and valued in the South East region," added Darren Jones, managing director of Persimmon Homes South East.

"We are delighted to be the recipients of these two fine awards"

Join campaign to put boarded-up buildings to good use as homes

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BOARDED Up Britain, a website aimed at documenting all of the boarded-up buildings in the country, has now been launched and members of the public are being encouraged to upload details of derelict buildings in their area in the hope that something will be done.

The scheme was founded by affordable-property-developer FreshStart Living, which wants to highlight the UK's boarded-up buildings so they can be transformed into homes.

Some research suggests that unless 330,000 homes are built a year, the UK will fail to deal with a claimed backlog of two million few homes.

Last year 390,000 new households formed – yet only 114,000 new homes were built. FreshStart Living believes the answer lies within the UK's existing boarded-up buildings, which can be transformed quickly and cost-effectively into affordable properties.

Matthew Dyas, Boarded Up Britain coordinator said: "No matter where you look nowadays you'll find an empty building... homes, pubs, warehouses and mills abandoned and left to rot. You can't even escape it on the high street, with more than one in 10 shops now lying vacant.

"We want to draw attention to these buildings and put an end to Boarded Up Britain, but we need the public's help to do it. If you're sick of that derelict building at the end of your street, upload it to the website and let's try and do something about it.

USE IT! The website aims to see derelict buildings transformed into habitable properties to help combat the claimed housing shortage

"Through Boarded Up Britain we want to collect information on all the derelict buildings across Britain so we can find out who owns them and put pressure on them to do something about it. We want to take a use-it-or-lose-it stance – why have a building sat there when it could be transformed into something that would be more useful, such as affordable housing or even a community centre?"

Charlie Cunningham, CEO of FreshStart Living, said: "We think Boarded Up Britain is a fantastic idea and we pledge to add all of our pipeline developments to the site so residents can keep updated on the building in their area.

"When we go looking at new sites and developments we often get residents coming up to us and saying 'It's about time you're doing something with this building' and I have to explain that we aren't the owners.

"Boarded Up Britain will help to solve this problem by allowing people to find out more about the derelict buildings in their area.

"What's more, it will also help them to raise awareness of buildings that have been sat there unused for years and show the current building-owners that residents are sick of being surrounded by these derelict buildings and they want something done about it."

• Go to www.boardedupbritain.com to find out more about the scheme.

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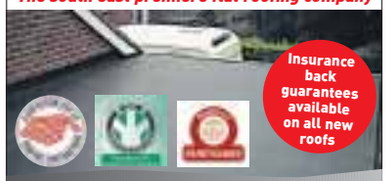

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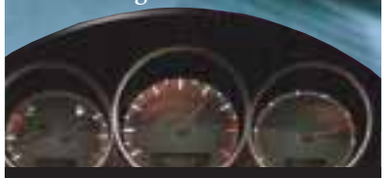

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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

- Mazda legend is given a whole new look
- Honda CR-V CUV set to retain its worth
- Value of 4x4s soars at auctioneers

Motorline dealership has added Peugeot to its offering

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Toyota aims for gold standard in hatchback sector with Auris

TOYOTA AURIS

Price: £14,495
Driving appeal: Not yet driven
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Best rival: Ford Focus

TOYOTA'S Corolla is one of the most successful car models in the world – the foundation of the Japanese number one's climb to virtual world domination.

Its hallmarks have been great practicality and reliability, words that proved to be the Corolla's death knell in the British and European markets, where panache and verve also need to be in the mix.

Toyota's answer? A European Corolla replacement in 2007, known as the Auris – a name that suggested this was the new gold standard in family hatchbacks.

Except it felt like a Corolla all over again.

An all-new Auris arrives shortly, though – priced from £14,495 – and could be a real divergence from the Corolla blueprint at last but again built in the UK at Toyota's Derbyshire plant.

The most obvious change is sharp styling, notably at the front, which is tipped to become Toyota's new corporate look and makes the car look lower and wider.

The former is certainly true: it rides 10mm lower than the old car, but Toyota has also lopped 55mm off the total height.

It looks racier, too, with a steeply-raked windscreen and side windows stretching closer to the rear, the low-slung look emphasised by a high waist and blacked-out centre and rear pillars, yet the tape measure says the car is just 30mm longer than before.

Toyota claims the new car delivers its traditional quality, durability and reliability plus more desirable design and driver rewards.

The interior looks to have had a serious rethink, too; Toyota will be all too aware that those ambitious Koreans, Kia and Hyundai, have put pressure on here with the latest Ceed and i30 models respectively.

So the new Auris offers greater adjustment on the front seat and the steering-wheel position.

There's also more boot space – 360 litres with rear seats in place – and that goes for the hybrid version, too, as the batteries are now tucked beneath the rear seats rather than intruding into the boot. And loading is easier with a 90mm wider tailgate opening and dual-level adjustable deckboard.

As the superb new GT86 sports coupé proves, Toyota has also snapped out of its obsession with hybrids for long enough to see that the brand must also offer something for those who still want to enjoy their driving, so the new Auris is also touted as more of a driver's car.

The lower profile helps and the chassis has been tuned for better response and ride comfort, with the electric power-steering designed to deliver quick feedback.

Ecologically, average CO_2 emissions for the whole range are 13 per cent lower than before at 109g/km, with the petrol electric and 1.4-litre diesel versions both escaping road tax altogether by limboing beneath the 100g/km benchmark

COMING SOON: This classy-looking and roomy estate, the Auris Touring Sports, will join Toyota's hatchback version when it arrives next year, adding even more choice for UK car-buyers

DON'T LIKE

... how we've had to wait a model generation for something that apparently now really does distance the Auris from the traditional Corolla.

NOT SURE

... buyers will be convinced immediately there is a genuinely new and more exciting Toyota answer to the established Focus, Golf and Astra.

REALLY LIKE

... how Toyota does seem to have raised its game with newer models that appeal to the senses as much as good sense on the eco front.

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B-Class shows that Mercedes has finally got a sensible MPV

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MERCEDES-BENZ went a bit mad on small MPVs.

In 2005, you had a choice of three: the A-Class, the B-Class and the unfortunately-named Vaneo – no prizes for guessing what that one looked like.

But the German premium marque realised this was too much of a bad thing and got sensible.

The A-Class has since morphed into a natty little sporting hatchback; the Vaneo has disappeared – hopefully never to return – and the B-Class now shoulders the small MPV burden alone.

Not that M-B deigns to use the MPV label; the B-Class is a 'compact sports tourer', mate, a description that suits the current car more than its rather more upright predecessor, gaining more handling panache while retaining much of the space and versatility.

The old car was a barge to drive and, while the latest car is still no sports machine, it looks the part with its comparatively low-slung profile and sharp styling, highlighted by sharp creases on the flanks.

It's not cheap, of course, priced from £21,295, but the car's quality, technology and safety stood out when it arrived earlier this year.

Mercs have always been at the top for looking after occupants at crunch time, but families will particularly like the standard-fit radar-based collision-warning system.

This weights up the brakes in anticipation if it detects that the car is too close to the vehicle in front, while a panel light alerts the possibly-distracted driver.

The cabin is airy with excellent headroom and fold-flat rear seats for maximum cargo capacity, while four equipment packages are offered for owner customisation: Chrome, Sports, Exclusive and Night – it's a far sexier proposition than last time around.

Practical-car-buyers are also usually people with an eye on ecology and economy and the B-Class won't disappoint here, either, with all-new low-emission, green powertrains including stop/start for added economy in congested conditions.

There's a new direct-injection turbocharged four-cylinder petrol-engine series, new diesel, six-speed manual gearboxes as standard and even a VW-style dual clutch seven-speed transmission allowing the car to be driven as an auto or manual. All wear M-B's eco-friendly Blue-Efficiency branding.

The test car was a flagship B200 CDI in smart Sport trim, this one in bright red with two-tone alloys and low-profile tyres – a real eye-catcher, even if those wheels did little to improve the slightly-nervous ride quality.

Our car also seemed to have an especially-sensitive throttle; given that the 132bhp 1.8-litre diesel has lots of low-down urge, I found it a bit too easy to spin the wheels when pulling away on a greasy or loose surface.

But it's a quiet and smooth engine and the auto-box changes are seamless and impressive, and flexible enough to be changed manually via steering-wheel paddles.

However, the unit adds £1,450 to the price of its manual equivalent. Some of that extra can be clawed back, though, by significantly-better fuel consumption against the manual; the official combined total is 67.3mpg versus 64.2 – but both options are impressive for this class.

The interior is classy and, while the test car had the optional £1,055 Exclusive upgrade – leather seats, high-gloss black-ash facia, heated front seats and other trimmings – the standard-fit Artico artificial leather looks as good and will probably last better.

We had to wait a generation, but M-B got the B-Class right this time; few MPVs manage to hit the button from a driver-enjoyment point of view, but this car is not so far off the mark and gives premium-car-buyers a seriously-practical and good-looking option.

MERCEDES-BENZ B200 CDI SPORT AUTO: PRICE £26,160

SMALL BUT PERFECTLY FORMED: Mercedes has put all its MPV eggs in one basket with the now-improved B-Class that comes with a host of hi-tech gadgets and plenty of room

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£100/year
Best rival:	Audi Q3

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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

MX-5 legend gets new face

MAZDA has given its MX-5 sports-car icon (from £18,495) a fresh face, including a new pedestrian-friendly pop-up bonnet, due to appear on other Mazdas and in anticipation of tough new EU legislation.

The car's famous handling prowess has also been tweaked and the new seven-strong line-up introduces the 2.0-litre MX-5 Sport Tech Nav models, with integrated TomTom sat-nav.

CR-V caps SUV sales increase

HONDA'S new fourth-generation CR-V SUV has had a sales boost from a respected independent source; valuation experts at CAP Monitor say the £30,995 2.2-litre diesel EX flagship will be worth 40 per cent of its original price after three years/60,000 miles.

This beats the sector average, with key factors being specification, modern looks, interior refinement, driving dynamics and economy.

Multiplication in 4x4 values

MAJOR auction chain BCA says 4x4 values rose sharply in October, climbing 16 per cent as the first signs of winter appeared.

And with long-range forecasters suggesting the UK is in for a colder-than-average winter, values for this sector and mud-bashing, snow-beating models like the Land Rover Freelander, pictured, could soar even higher, according to BCA.

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Star Silver

WAS £9995 **NOW £9196**

SAVE £799

2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA SXi 1.6 5dr

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Panacotta

WAS £5650 **NOW £5198**

SAVE £452

2011 (11) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE CDTi 1.3 3dr

5107 miles
Glacier white

WAS £8995 **NOW £8276**

SAVE £719

2012 (12) VAUXHALL MERIVA ACTIVE 1.4 5 dr

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Technical Grey

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2007 **Corsa Club 1.2 5dr,** Lancelot	£5,495	£5,065	£439
2010 **Corsa SXi A/C 1.2 3dr,** Metro blue	£8,495	£7,815	£680
2011 **Corsa Excite CDTi 1.3 3dr,** Glacier white	£8,995	£8,276	£719
2011 **Corsa Excite 1.2 3dr,** Pepper Dust	£9,995	£9,196	£799
2012 **Corsa Active A/C 1.2 5dr,** Technical Grey	£10,495	£9,656	£839
2012 **Corsa Active 1.2 5dr,** Sovereign Silver	£10,395	£9,504	£831
2012 **Corsa VXT 1.6 3dr,** Arden Blue	£16,995	£15,636	£1,359
2011 **Corsa S 1.0 3dr,** Glacier White	£9,495	£8,735	£760

ASTRA	Was	Now	Save
2006 **Astra Active 1.6 5dr,** Star Silver	£5,495	£5,056	£439
2008 **Astra SXi 1.6 5dr,** Panacotta	£5,650	£5,198	£452
2008 **Astra Breeze Sporthatch 1.4 3dr,** Black Sapphire	£6,775	£6,953	£542
2009 **Astra TwinTop 1.6 2dr,** Air Blue	£7,995	£7,356	£639
2009 **Astra Life 1.6 5dr,** Silver Lightening	£6,995	£6,436	£559
2010 **Astra Exclusive 1.6 5dr,** Blue	£8,495	£7,816	£679
2011 **Astra Exclusiv Tourer 1.3 5dr,** Sovereign Silver	£11,995	£11,036	£959
2011 **New Astra Excite 1.4 5dr,** Silver Lake	£12,995	£11,956	£1,039
2012 **New Astra Active 1.6 5dr,** Sovereign Silver	£13,495	£12,416	£1,079
2011 **Astra SRi CDTi 2.0 5dr,** Silver Lake	£13,995	£12,876	£1,119

AGILA	Was	Now	Save
2009 **Agila Design 1.2 5dr,** Black Sapphire	£6,415	£5,996	£449
2012 **Agila S A/C 1.2 5dr,** Steel Silver	£9,995	£9,296	£699
2011 **Agila SE 1.2 5dr,** Steel Silver	£9,495	£8,830	£665

INSIGNIA	Was	Now	Save
2009 **Insignia SE CDTi 2.0 5dr,** Star Silver	£9,995	£9,196	£799
2010 **Insignia SRi CDTi 2.0 5dr,** Black Sapphire	£11,995	£10,995	£1,050
2011 **Insignia SRi CDTi 2.0 5dr,** Carbon Flash	£14,495	£13,336	£1,159

ZAFIRA	Was	Now	Save
2009 **Zafira Exclusiv 1.6 5dr,** Star Silver	£8,495	£7,731	£764
2009 **Zafira Active+ 1.6 5dr,** Metro Blue	£8,495	£7,731	£764

MERIVA	Was	Now	Save
2009 **Meriva Club 1.6 5dr,** Air Blue	£6,845	£5,995	£850
2012 **Meriva Active 1.4 5dr,** Technical Grey	£12,995	£11,495	£1,500
2012 **Meriva Ltd 1.4 5dr,** White	£14,995	£13,495	£1,500

Non-Vauxhalls	Was	Now	Save
2008 **Cheverlolet LTX Captiva CDTi 2.0 5dr,** Silver	£9,995	£9,296	£699
2006 **Mercedes CLK 200 2dr,** Blue	£11,995	£10,995	£1,000

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Peugeot arrives at Motorline

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MOTORLINE – the Kent and Sussex family-owned dealer group – is adding Peugeot to its portfolio of brands.

The French marque joins a line-up already including Volkswagen, Toyota, Lexus, Renault, Skoda, Nissan and Hyundai across sites stretching from Canterbury in the east to Gatwick and Horsham in the west.

Motorline has added the Peugeot name by leasing the former Canterbury Motor Company site at Rhodaus Town in the city.

More recently, this has operated as a Robins & Day outlet – Peugeot's in-house dealership chain – but the manufacturer has made overtures for several years about Motorline applying its much-admired retail skills to the Canterbury franchise.

The group has now promoted experienced dealer principal Robert Hendry to the position of brand manager and he will head the first Peugeot acquisition.

Rob, who ran Motorline's Toyota site at Ashford's Orbital Park for four years, said: "This is a feather in our cap, to be courted by a major marque like Peugeot, and I'm really looking forward to the challenge.

"Peugeot has some excellent new products, notably the 208 supermini – which arrived in the summer of 2012 – and a versatile range of diesel-electric hybrids, plus a brilliant sporting halo car in the RCZ.

"We've also got the 208 GTi to look forward to next year, which really will evoke memories of the legendary 205GTi.

"But, apart from taking on the brand itself, we have another challenge – the search for a new site. Rhodaus Town is an ageing premises and we really want a new and modern motor dealership that can be given Peugeot's trademark 'Blue Box' treatment. We hope to have that in early 2013."

The Motorline group employees some 5,500 people, including more than 50 at its Canterbury head office.

NEW: Rob Hendry, brand manager for Motorline's Peugeot range, is excited by the chance to sell models such as the Hybrid 508RXH, left, and RCZ

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59/09 3 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5dr Estate Black Magic 28,760 miles	£8,000
ŠKODA Roomster	
12/12 1.6TDI (105 BHP) SE Plus 5dr MPV Corrida Red 9,811 miles	£12,000
ŠKODA Octavia	
11/11 1.6 MPI Elegance 5dr Hatchback Arctic Green 9,906 miles	£10,000
10/10 1.6 TDI CR Elegance 5dr Hatchback Satin Grey 38,120 miles	£12,000
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59/09 2.0 TDI PD Laurin & Klement DSG Hatchback Satin Grey 31,855 miles	£13,000
12/12 1.8 TSI Laurin & Klement 5dr Estate Brilliant Silver 3,482 miles	£17,000
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09/09 2.0 TDI CR vRS DSG 5dr Estate Black Magic 30,607 miles	£12,000
58/08 2.0 TDI PD Elegance 5dr Estate DSG Storm Blue 36,063 miles	£10,000
ŠKODA Yeti	
61/11 2.0 TDI CR 4x4 Elegance (140 BHP) 5dr Brilliant Silver 17,585 miles	£19,500
10/10 2.0 TDI CR Elegance 5dr Steel Grey 19,725 miles	£26,500
ŠKODA Superb	
12/12 2.0 TDI CR Elegance DSG (170 BHP) 5dr Estate Black Magic 9,069 miles	£23,000
09/09 2.0 TDI CR SE DSG 5dr Hatchback Brilliant Silver 31,246 miles	£13,000
61/11 1.6 TDI CR Elegance GreenLine 5dr Hatchback Cappuccino 23,850 miles	£16,800
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CRICKET

Fixtures reveal 'decent spread' of summer games for county

KENT fans can start planning their summer after the club released its fixture list.

Highlights include the Tunbridge Wells Festival, the 162nd Canterbury Cricket Week in late August, and a potential tie against New Zealand in June which will be cancelled should the Kiwis reach the ICC Trophy final.

Chief executive Jamie Clifford said: "It is pleasing to see a decent spread of cricket through the summer months of June, July and August, with a good mix of cricket at key times – Friday nights, Sunday afternoons for the whole family, as well as plenty of mid-week championship cricket."

KCCC FIXTURES LIST FOR 2013

Month	Opposition	Location	Competition
APRIL			
Wed 10	**Cardiff MCCU**	**Canterbury**	**UNI**
Wed 17	Leicestershire	Grace Road	LV=CC2
Wed 24	Lancashire	Old Trafford	LV=CC2
MAY			
Wed 1	**Northamptonshire**	**Canterbury**	**LV=CC2**
Mon 6	Warwickshire	Edgbaston	CB40
Wed 8	Nottinghamshire	Trent Bridge	CB40 (F)
Fri 10	Netherlands	TBC	CB40
Wed 15	**Worcestershire**	**Canterbury**	**CB40 (F)**
Fri 17	**Worcestershire**	**Canterbury**	**LV=CC2**
Wed 22	Essex	Chelmsford	LV=CC2
Sun 26	Sussex	Horsham	CB40
Mon 27	**Netherlands**	**Tunbridge Wells**	**CB40**
Wed 29	**Leicestershire**	**Tunbridge Wells**	**LV=CC2**
JUNE			
Sun 2	**Northamptonshire**	**Tunbrige Wells**	**CB40**
Wed 5	Hampshire	Ageas Bowl	LV=CC2
Wed 12	**Glamorgan**	**Canterbury**	**LV=CC2**
Wed 19	**Sussex**	**Canterbury**	**CB40 (F)**
Sat 22	**New Zealand**	**Canterbury**	**TOM t20 (F)**
Fri 28	**Middlesex**	**Canterbury**	**FLt20 (F)**
Sun 30	**Surrey**	**TBC**	**FLt20**
JULY			
Fri 5	**Essex**	**Canterbury**	**FLt20 (F)**
Sun 7	Middlesex	TBC	FLt20
Mon 8	Essex	Chelmsford	FLt20 (F)
Wed 10	Gloucestershire	Cheltenham	LV=CC2
Mon 15	**Hampshire**	**Canterbury**	**LV=CC2**
Sun 21	Hampshire	Ageas Bowl	FLt20
Wed 24	**Sussex**	**Canterbury**	**FLt20 (F)**
Fri 26	Surrey	Kia Oval	FLt20 (F)
Mon 29	**Hampshire**	**Canterbury**	**FLt20 (F)**
Wed 31	Sussex	Hove	FLt20 (F)
AUGUST			
Fri 2	Worcestershire	New Road	LV=CC2
6, 7 or 8		Quarter Finals	FLt20
Sun 11	Worcestershire	New Road	CB40
Tue 13	Northamptonshire	Northampton	CB40 (F)
Thur 15	**Warwickshire**	**Canterbury**	**CB40 (F)**
Sat 17	FLt20 Finals Day	Edgbaston	FLt20 (F)
Wed 21	**Gloucestershire**	**Canterbury**	**LV=CC2 (CCW)**
Mon 26	**Nottinghamshire**	**Canterbury**	**CB40 (CCW)**
SEPTEMBER			
Tue 3	Glamorgan	SWALEC	LV=CC2
Sat 7		Semi-final	CB40
Mon 9		Semi-final	CB40
Wed 11	**Essex**	**Canterbury**	**LV=CC2**
Tue 17	Northamptonshire	Northampton	LV=CC2
Sat 21	CB40 Final	Lord's	CB40
Tue 24	**Lancashire**	**Canterbury**	**LV=CC2**

RUGBY

Blast from the past as ex stars from the Mote shine on the international stage

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

DEAL: Former Maidstone player Piers Francis has signed for Edinburgh after a stint in New Zealand

ALTHOUGH there is a lot of focus on first team affairs at Maidstone at present with the club blazing a trail in the league, attention has switched to the past this week, with a few reminders of famous connections from the autumn international matches.

South Africa, New Zealand and Australia are all on tour in Britain for autumn internationals this month which has brought up some familiar names from Maidstone's past.

Man of the match for the Aussies in their win over England was flanker Michael Hooper. His father, Dave, played for Maidstone's first team in the early 1980s before emigrating Down Under.

And England's conquerors on Saturday, South Africa, included a certain John Mcfarland among their coaching staff. His father, Jack, is a club member at the Mote.

Deputy chairman at Maidstone, Bob Hayton, said: "Dave Hooper never played rugby at school, and he started playing for Linton, which is now Aylesford Rugby Club.

"He came to Maidstone and was a very successful back row forward. He played a couple of seasons under the captaincy of Simon Knight in the early 80s before emirgrating."

There is also a more recent connection to Maidstone players around the world this week as Dan Caprice and Piers Francis have been in the news.

Caprice never made a first team appearance for the club, but represented their successful youth sides before joining Saracens. The winger, who is probably more well known for his exploits with England's Sevens' side signed for Biarritz in France last season. He moved to New Zealand in the summer, and is now back in England with London Welsh. He hopes to move back to the southern hemisphere in January.

Caprice's former youth squad team mate Piers Francis is also on the move this week.

The 22-year-old signed a two-year deal with Edinburgh this week.

He played 1st XV rugby with Maidstone when only 17 and was fly half for two seasons before departing to New Zealand, aged 18. Since then he has played for Auckland Marist, Auckland and Waikato in the ITM Cup as well as being part of the Waikato Chiefs Super XV squad.

"Coming from the UK, I was very excited by an approach from Edinburgh Rugby and it moved very quickly from there," said Francis. "It's a new challenge in two great competitions, where I can test myself and integrate some of the southern hemisphere ways in my game into a club that's packed with internationals.

"I believe I have the skills and the attitude to enjoy success with Edinburgh and see this as another great opportunity for me to develop my game even further as part of a very professional set-up alongside great players."

MOTORSPORT

Wind and rain can't dampen final race of historic year at Brands Hatch

THE final race of Brands Hatch's season went into the darkness last weekend.

The Britcar Production Cup night race was plagued by persistent rain and high winds which added to the drama of a 90 minute race at the famous circuit. It ends an historic year at the West Kingsdown track, which has hosted the road cycling for the Paralympics, rounds of the British Touring Car Championships, and the dramatic British Superbike Championships.

■ **Pictures by Ady Kerry.**

FOOTBALL

Darts winger left in a Hayes at speed of progress to top

Just seven years ago Ryan Hayes was playing in front of one man and his dog in the Kent League, he talks to **Greg Miles** about life at the top of the non-league game alongside his day job as a meat market trader

GROWING up, Ryan Hayes was content to just kick a ball about with his mates with the dream of a professional career in the game never getting anywhere near take-off.

But after three promotions in five years, and with Dartford riding high in the Blue Square Premier, is that unlikely dream on the verge of coming true for the flying winger?

That question – one that is asked quite a lot recently with Tony Burman's Darts surpassing all expectations – will remained unanswered until the end of the season.

The full-time dream is a lot closer to happening than when Hayes first joined the club back at the end of the 2004/5 season. Since then he's been involved in three promotions in the last five years as they've made the leap from Ryman One North strugglers to promotion winners from the Blue Square South via the play-offs last season.

It wasn't too long ago he was playing for the now defunct Kent League side Slade Green in front of a handful of fans – these days he's strutting his stuff in front of crowds of 6,000 at the likes of Luton.

"I was scoring a few at Slade Green and Tony (Burman) thought he would come down and watch one night. Luckily enough I played alright," Hayes said. "That was a Tuesday, by the Saturday I was travelling with them for a game. I had never played first team football before going to Slade Green. I was enjoying myself. Dartford were still a big club at the time with their history.

"Tony just said to me 'we want to give you the opportunity to come and play'. We had eight games left in the season. I think we were third from bottom when I joined, but we just about stayed up and we haven't looked back since."

He made two appearances as a sub before being handed his first start in the third game as a 19-year-old at the end of the 2004/5 season.

"I was excited," he said. "I think I scored two goals in the first ten minutes which was nice. We were getting big crowds even back then. I had gone from playing in front of a man and his dog to more than 600. I loved it. I seem to like it when there are more people.

"I grew up with people who at 16 or 17 years old were going into the pro game. I didn't make the cut. I just thought I was going to be playing with my mates."

Up until two years ago Hayes was still working as a builder with his father-in-law, but he has since taken up a meat seller's job at Smithfield Market in London. It has its drawbacks as he works night shifts, meaning he has to take days off for midweek kick-offs.

"I get home from work at 9am, go to bed at 10am, and wake up at 2.30pm," he said. "When we have games or training I just suffer.

"It took a lot of getting used to. The first year I struggled with football. I was left out because I couldn't get my sleeping patterns right. Luckily I have settled down and everything is good. I think this year I have used ten days' holiday up with the football."

Dartford – like a number of clubs in the division – are still part-time, but inevitably if they are to push on, or even gain promotion, becoming full time will have to happen.

"Financially it wouldn't be beneficial for some players to go full time, but if you want to be playing football every day it's a gamble you have to take," he said. "We always speak about it. If we do carry on winning what will happen? Will we go full time? It's a massive ask for us to get promoted."

SALESMAN: Ryan Hayes takes time off from his night job to attend matches

CELEBRATION: Dartford partied at Bognor

Night out at the seaside is best of three promotions

PROMOTION from the Ryman Premier in the 2009/10 season is the stand out moment for Hayes owing to an incredible run of 20 straight wins.

It also ranks as a highlight for the night out the team had in Brighton before the final game of the season against Bognor Regis.

With the title already wrapped up at Kingstonian the weekend before, they travelled to Bognor on an incredibly hot weekend - not ideal given the state of the squad.

"We were really struggling one season, and then the following year we started off so well and no one could catch us," he said.

"We won the first 20 games. The team we had was all close together. We won it at Kingstonian, and the next week we had Bognor Regis.

"It was a really hot weekend and we had a few drinks on Friday, and went out in Brighton.

"Tony (Burman) named the team on the Saturday thinking nothing of it. But when some of the lads took off their sunglasses he had to leave them out – they were in a bad way.

"Some of us didn't get in until 4am on Saturday. We were having ice lollies at 11am and got to the game where it was boiling. Nothing has come close to that."

For the record, Hayes came on as a second half sub as Dartford won 2-0 in front of around 500 travelling fans on the south coast.

Bognor were relegated.

NEXT: Angels take on Darts

FOOTBALL

Angels looking forward to a cup derby after last-minute Wales win

TOMMY Warrilow is hoping to put Tonbridge Angels' miserable cup record behind them after making it past the second round of the FA Trophy.

The Angels snatched a last-gasp win at Welsh side Merthyr Town on Tuesday night. The fixture was rearranged from Saturday following heavy rain.

With the game heading for a replay, Lee Browning netted in the 94th minute to seal a 2-1 win.

They face Dartford in the third round at Princes Park on December 15th.

"I'm just glad it's out of the way," he said. "It's £5,000 for us which we didn't have before. It's nice to have a couple of rounds in the cup.

"We don't want to go to Dartford for a sympathetic clap off the pitch. We are going there to win. Hopefully it will be a good game. It's nice to have a local derby."

BRONZE: Yarnold on form

SKELETON

Blistering run gives Yarnold third place to end North American trip

SKELETON star Lizzy Yarnold claimed a bronze in the latest round of the World Cup series in Whistler, Canada.

The 23-year-old from West Kingsdown is fourth overall in the series after the first three races in North America having finished ninth in the first round in Lake Placid, before picking up a second place in Park City,

Despite setting the fastest run of the event in Whistler on her second outing, the combined time put her third overall.

Her first run of 55.70 seconds put her in seventh, but her second run of 55.47 seconds, moved her up the standings.

Yarnold, who won a bronze at the World Championships and a gold at the Junior World Championships last season, is in action in Winterberg in Germany this week in the fourth round of the series.

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